

Debates in the Eastern House of Assembly

Monday, 13th December, 1948

Pursuant to notice the Members of the Eastern House of
Assembly met in the Garrison Hall, Enugu, at 10 a.m.
on Monday, the 13th of December, 1948.

PRESENT

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces,
Commander J. G. Pyke-Nott, R.N.
- The Senior Resident, Cameroons Province,
Mr A. F. B. Bridges.
- The Secretary, Eastern Provinces,
Commander S. E. Johnson, R.N.
- The Resident, Owerri Province,
Mr J. S. Smith.
- The Resident, Rivers Province,
Mr A. T. E. Marsh.
- The Resident, Onitsha Province,
Mr V. K. Johnson.
- The Resident, Calabar Province,
Mr C. J. Mayne.
- The Acting Resident, Ogoja Province,
Mr J. G. Mackenzie.
- The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces,
Mr G. B. G. Chapman.
- The Acting Deputy Director of Medical Services, Eastern
Provinces,
Dr J. H. Pottinger.
- The Deputy Director of Education, Eastern Provinces,
Mr C. T. Quinn-Young.
- The Deputy Director of Agriculture, Eastern Provinces,
Mr M. Park.
- The Acting Deputy Director of Public Works, Eastern
Provinces,
Mr E. Wall, M.C.
- The Acting Senior Crown Counsel, Eastern Provinces,
Mr N. G. Hay.

Government reform where it is stated that the Select Committee report has had the widest circulation and that Members of this House are taking an active part in sounding public opinion on this matter. Finally I stated that it was my intention to call an Extraordinary Meeting of this House in February in order to debate the question. I should like to make it clear that when the Address was written—early in October—there was every indication that the printed Report of the Select Committee would be available for wide distribution during October, thus giving ample time for consultation at all levels before the proposed Extraordinary Meeting. Unfortunately, the printed copies of the Report were greatly delayed and only received a few days ago.

You will, I know, agree with me that on such a matter of paramount importance, undue haste should be avoided at all costs and that to adhere to my original programme would give the people insufficient time to consider the question as carefully as they should, and for public opinion to be adequately sounded. It is my intention, therefore, that this House shall consider the question and debate it at a later date—most probably during the next July meeting of the House. It is my earnest wish that reform in Local Government should not be subject to any unnecessary delay, and I know that Members are equally desirous to see reforms put into effect; but we must be very certain of the public view before committing the Region to sweeping changes in the present organization.

The volume of business before the House is considerable, as the Order Paper shows. In this connection, I would remind the House that section 53 of the Nigeria (Legislative Council) Order in Council, 1946 has been brought into force. The effect of this is that every Bill other than Appropriation Bills and Supplementary Appropriation Bills to be introduced into Legislative Council shall, prior to its introduction therein, be laid upon the table of and considered by each House of Assembly with certain provisos.

And now, gentlemen, in concluding my first speech before this House, I should like with your permission to strike a personal note.

I am looking forward with the greatest pleasure to getting to know the peoples of the Eastern Provinces, and to obtaining an understanding of all their problems.

For myself, I have always been firmly convinced that mutual confidence is essential if any worthwhile progress is to be achieved in this world. Besides, it is from a seed-bed of mutual confidence that the strong and upright plants of lasting friendships spring.

Members of this House and the peoples of the Eastern Provinces may rest assured that my fullest confidence will always be offered to them. I most ardently pray that I shall be favoured with yours and theirs in return.

I have laid great stress on this need for mutual confidence because I am certain that it provides the means by which I can best serve the people of this Region. It will enable me to give to you all of my help and advice during our march together along the road of progress to our destination. That destination is a Nigeria which is self-governed and which has assumed its place with pride amongst the other nations of the world.

Gentlemen, I am very conscious of the heavy responsibilities that have descended upon my shoulders. However, I am quite undaunted in that I possess faith. I know that I can look forward to our future with confidence.

PAPERS LAID

The Secretary, Eastern Provinces:

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

Ordinances and subsidiary legislation enacted or made since the last meeting of the House which are in terms applicable to the Region.

Certificates of Urgency in respect of the following Bills—

A Bill for an Ordinance to amend the Employment of Ex-Servicemen Ordinance, 1945.

A Bill for an Ordinance to make provision for the Marketing and Export of Nigerian Oil Palm Produce and for matters connected therewith.

A Bill for an Ordinance to make provision for the Marketing and Export of Nigerian Groundnuts and certain other Oil Seeds and for matters connected therewith.

A Bill for an Ordinance to make provision for the Marketing and Export of Nigerian Cotton and for matters connected therewith.

A Bill for an Ordinance to amend the Local Loans (Registered Stock and Securities) Ordinance, 1946.

A Bill for an Ordinance further to amend the Public Holidays Ordinance.

A Bill for an Ordinance to prohibit the use of Manillas as Currency.

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.

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.

- A Bill for an Ordinance further to amend the Diplomatic Privileges (Extension) Ordinance, 1947.
- A Bill for an Ordinance further to amend the Income Tax Ordinance, 1943.
- A Bill for an Ordinance further to amend the Waterworks Ordinance.
- 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.
- A Bill for an Ordinance to provide 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.

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

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

Draft Regional Estimates 1949-50 together with the Memorandum thereon.

Report of the Standing Committee on Finance for the period August to December, 1948.

QUESTIONS

NOTE.—Replies to Questions Nos. 2 and 5 by the First Provincial Member for the Owerri Province, are not yet ready.

The First Provincial Member for the Owerri Province (Mr M. W. Ubani):

1. To ask the Secretary, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) (i) Whether the conditions of service of the new Interpreters Service in regard to pension and gratuity rights and in all other respects are similar to those obtaining for the Clerical Establishment?

(ii) If yes, whether such retiring benefits will have a retrospective effect from the dates of the original appointments of those clerks who have accepted transfers to the new Service?

(b) With a view to improving the new Interpreters' Service, will Government not consider that—

(i) Candidates for appointment as Interpreters should possess the same educational qualification as that required for entry into the Clerical Service?

(ii) New entrants into the Service should pass an Interpreters' Examination before confirmation of their appointments and the Examination should consist of a rigorous test in the candidate's own, and English, languages, Interpreters' Hand-Book, Native Courts and Native Authority Ordinances and in such other Ordinances or subjects with which an Interpreter should be conversant?

(c) What opportunities exist for reasonable advancement to grades equivalent to those of Assistant Chief Clerks and Chief Clerks for deserving Interpreters? If any, how many such posts in each grade do exist?

(d) As do occur in some cases in the Clerical Service and in the Police and other Departments, what chances of advancement to the Senior Service are there for Interpreters of long experience and outstanding ability?

(e) In view of the fact that Interpreters by the very nature of their duties are closest to Administrative Officers, and in consequence understudy them, whether in the interest of Public Service, consideration will be given to the creation of the post of Administrative Assistants to which some Interpreters of over ten years actual interpreting experience and who are up to date and are in every way deserving and suitable may be appointed in order to relieve the hard-pressed and depleted Administrative Staff of such duties as the hearing of Reviews and Appeals in the Native Courts and some other routine duties and thus afford Administrative Officers more time to devote to meeting the people in their villages and knowing them more intimately with a view to assisting them with their problems?

Answer—

The Secretary, Eastern Provinces:

(a) (i) and (ii) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) This qualification is demanded.

(ii) No Interpreters' Examinations are contemplated.

(c) Opportunities for advancement to these grades compare more than favourably with that in the Clerical Service. Promotion is by merit and there is no limit to establishment in the highest grades up to the total establishment of the Interpreters' Service. Promotion does not depend upon vacancies in the higher grades.

(d) The same. By selection by the Public Service Boards.

(e) It is not at present the intention to create such posts for the purposes set forth.

The First Provincial Member for the Owerri Province (Mr M. W. Ubani):

3. To ask the Secretary, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) To state the names of the land owners who signed the agreement or treaty with the Railway Authorities during the constructions of the Eastern Railway line. The land owners required are those between Ogwe and Uzuakoli Stations?

(b) Was there any compensation paid to the land owners for their land and crops destroyed at the time? If so, how much were paid to the land owners between Ogwe and Uzuakoli Stations. State the amounts of compensation station by station?

(c) What is the distance of Railway land from the middle of the Railway line to either side of the land along the line?

(d) What is the area of land acquired by the Railway Authorities in each station between Ogwe and Uzuakoli?

(e) In view of the constant representation by Owerri people to the Government will the Government not consider it as one of the reasonable and major plans of development of this country to construct a Railway line from Aba through Owerri to Onitsha thus providing the heart of Iboland with easy means of development of the hinterland trade and transportation?

Answer—

The Secretary, Eastern Provinces:

(a) and (b). The Nigerian Eastern Railway from Ogwe to Uzuakoli is covered by the three grants detailed below. Compensation as noted was paid.

(i) Mile 15½ (Imo River) to mile 54 (near Mbawsi) dated 1st December, 1915, and registered as No. 3 at page 18 Vol. 99 Lagos. Signed by 108 Chiefs of Aba Division. £648 14s was paid as compensation to land owners.

(ii) Mile 54 to mile 77 (near Umuahia-Ibeku) dated 14th March, 1916, and registered as No. 4 at page 36 Vol. 99 Lagos. Signed by thirty-eight Chiefs of Bende Division. £62 was paid as compensation to land owners.

(iii) Mile 77 to mile 100 (North of Otampa) dated 7th December, 1917, and registered as No. 9 at page 76 Vol. 99 Lagos. Signed by thirty Chiefs of Okigwi Division. £180 was paid to land owners.

(c) The width of Railway land, except at stations, varies from 50 to 100 feet on the West side of the line and from 60 to 105 feet on the East side. The width varies continuously.

(d) Accurate computations of areas are not available, but the areas are indicated on the small scale plans attached to the above deeds.

(e) In view of the extensive road system that already exists in this area, it is not considered that the construction of a Railway line from Aba to Onitsha should be included as a part of the Development Plan.

The First Provincial Member for the Owerri Province (Mr M. W. Ubani):

4. To ask the Secretary, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) Whether it is true that the Pension Scheme or Retiring Allowance recommended by the Chadwick's Commission for Native Authority Employees has been approved in principle by His Honour?

(b) Whether it is true that this Scheme is operating elsewhere other than in Owerri Province?

(c) If the answers to (a) and (b) above are in the affirmative when will it be applied to Owerri Province?

(d) In view of the existence of apparent anomaly in the system of regrading of posts in the Native Administration Service whereby in some cases the posts are graded before they are actually occupied and in others the employee for the post is graded, whether the system of grading in the Government Departments for 3rd, 2nd and 1st Class would not be profitably and equitably adopted in the Native Administration thus abolishing the prevailing system which is unsatisfactory and deterrent to the progress of the Native Authority Employees?

(e) Why not allow each department of work in the Native Administration services to have its 3rd, 2nd and 1st Class grading instead of stigmatising a post, *e.g.*, Native Administration Dispensary Attendant as a Grade IV post with a maximum of £72 per annum?

(f) In view of the fact that Dispensary Attendants are held to be equivalent to 3rd Class Nurses in Government service, why are they not considered on equal terms and footing like their counterparts in Government service as far as Grading and Salary Scale are concerned?

(g) In view of the fact that the salary scale of Grades V and IV rises by £4 instead of £6 in both the rich and poor Native Administrations, what is the reason for this apparent disparity?

(h) In view of His Excellency's expressed desire to grant more favourable conditions of service to ex-servicemen than hitherto, as conveyed in Chief Secretary to the Government's Circulars Nos. 43/1948 and 56/1948, will a full statement of the revised Grade V Scale for the ex-servicemen in both Government and Native Administration services be given as compared with those contained in Secretary, Eastern Provinces' Circular No. 20/1948?

(i) Is the Secretary aware that ex-servicemen in the Native Administration with the same qualifications as their counterparts in Government service, both in the Army and as civilians regard these revisions as discriminatory with particular reference to paragraphs 4, 8 and 16 of Circular No. 43/1948 for Standard Scale of Salary, Confirmation of Appointment and Accelerated Promotion, respectively?

(j) Why should the conditions in (i) above exist?

(k) Why is it that ex-servicemen employed between 1st January, 1946 and 30th March, 1947, instead of getting the arrears due them are being threatened with refund of the difference between the Salary recommended in Secretary, Eastern Provinces' Circular and the higher salary paid them as a result of Harragin *cum* Chadwick's recommendations, despite the fact that they were in employment prior to the revision of salary of all Government and Native Authority Employees?

MOTIONS

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

Sir, I beg to move the following:—

“ Be it resolved:

That the Estimates of Expenditure be considered by the House and thereafter referred to a Select Committee of the House.”

This is the second occasion, Sir, on which I have had the honour to present the Regional Estimates of Expenditure to this House, and, if this occasion is not so historic as the last, I feel nevertheless that financially it is one of considerably greater significance, since it is, I hope and confidently expect, the opening of an epoch when regional finances, that is to say regional expenditure directly under the control of this House, are expanding through development projects outside the immediate scope of the Regional Estimates. I am thinking, of course, of the Bills to which you referred, Sir, in your speech.

The draft Estimates, which Members have now had an opportunity to study, were framed not upon the actual allocation of revenue which was made last July, but upon an assumed figure which took into account certain decisions on policy, the most important of which was the regionalization of Educational Grants-in-Aid amounting to no less than £634,000.

I do not think that it serves any purpose, Sir, to complicate my speech by the recital of a lot of figures, since they are merely confusing; I do not believe that figures of the order of hundreds of thousands or millions have much true significance when they reach the brain through the ears. I find personally that if anyone talks to me about £10, or perhaps £100 or so, I can grasp it—I believe there are some people who own as much as that and I have heard rumours about it—but when we come to hundreds of thousands of pounds, I feel about it in much the same way as an Ibo Interpreter once put it for me—*Akpa ego nine n'wua dum*, which is interpreted fairly as “bags and bags and bags of money and all the bags in all the world”.

In the first part of the draft Memorandum I have therefore set out how the revenue figure for the draft Estimates was calculated, and a note which I have circulated to Members of the House explains the effect of the revised allocation which you, Sir, have just announced to the House. It may be, as you have said, Sir, that some disappointment will be felt, and particularly it will not have escaped the notice of anyone how meagre is the provision which it has been possible to make for Public Works Extraordinary. I shall refer to this again, but I wish first of all to emphasize the fact that the allocation which has been given to us is extraordinarily

generous, if we take into account, as we should and must, what we contribute to revenue. Our contribution is about 26 per cent of the whole, but the block allocation made to us represents about 37½ per cent of the sum available for allocation to Regions. We are therefore well advised I think, Sir, not to complain, and we might think that even if we have not got all that we want, we have at least got a great deal more than we should expect, or take for granted. I mentioned Public Works Extraordinary just now, because it is the most evident defect in the present Estimates, but I think I can dispel any feelings of alarm and despondency on this account by reminding the House that the Public Works Department does not restrict its activities to the works which we show on our Regional Estimates. It is a very busy Department indeed; it undertakes all the works in the Region from the Central Departments and from Development; there is no danger of any reduced activity because we have so little to provide ourselves. It simply means that there will be opportunity for greater concentration on Development works; and since the capital cost of these is not charged up against us we are on the whole not so badly off. This illustrates the point which I underlined last year, and which I think it is as well to repeat, that the Regional Estimates are merely a statement of the expenditure on Regional Services—they are not however, just a mass of figures which happen to add up (as I sincerely hope they do), but they are a statement in concise form of regional policy for the coming year. There is a mass of expenditure in this Region quite apart from all this, and the Regional Estimates are just one bite at the apple. We cannot increase our Regional Expenditure by expecting a kindly providence to shake more apples down from the tree for us, but only by our hard work; that is, by increasing our revenue. There is some scope for this as a simple story will tell. I have been enquiring how many people in the Eastern Provinces pay Schedule II Tax, the tax upon Incomes above the basic flat rate; I have not had the figures from all areas yet, but what I have cover a population of about 2½ millions: less than 1½ per cent pay Schedule II Tax at all, only twenty-four persons admit to an income of £400 a year, and only twenty to an income of £600 a year. This is surprising, I might even say astounding, and I believe that most of us could think of more persons in the higher income groups from amongst our personal acquaintances without going very deeply into the matter. Until we are prepared to correct this state of affairs there can be no claim that this Region should enjoy a revenue allocation in excess of its own efforts; we must accept what we have and leave our disappointments to the searching of our own hearts.

The Bills to which you referred, Sir, should divert us from the narrow point of view that the sum of £2,494,200, which is the basis of our Estimates, is the limit of our hope and ambitions. I am now proposing the toast of the Regional Estimates, and Standing Rules of this House prevent me from

term view of our financial economy, the future is dangerously ominous unless gigantic efforts are put forward to increase our revenue or some drastic curtailment is imposed upon Personal Emoluments. This aspect of expenditure is giving us much anxiety, it is assuming prodigious proportions and eating away most rapaciously funds which should have been made available for development and other essential services. I think we should quickly now explore other sources of revenue. It may mean rating in certain areas, increased taxation in others, or both in some townships. I emphatically suggest on behalf of my vast constituencies that revenue-yielding industries should be encouraged in order to raise the standard of living of the people. The people of the East are principally agricultural by nature. They would like uninterrupted facilities to import manufactured commodities and export their primary products—whereby they could increase their financial status and therefore contribute better to the revenue.

In my last Budget Address I did emphasise that Personal Emoluments were completely out of proportion to the revenue-yielding capacity of this Region. I trust that when the Bill entitled “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” shall come under discussion and debate, we shall embrace it with open arms because the ultimate effect of this Ordinance is to better our economic status.

I reserve further observations on the Estimates of Expenditure until the Committee stage when we shall be able to criticise it in detail.

I will deal with the Education Department. The importance of this Department can never be over-estimated in the development of any peoples. There is not much to criticise in this Department this year as they are just beginning to try out a policy. I think it is charitable for us to give them the chance to try out this year. Your Honour, in your printed speech, made certain observations in this connection. I quote you *verbatim*, Sir.

“The period under review has been notable for Educational Development. Members of this House are aware of legislation that has been enacted for the establishment of a Provisional Council for the University College at Ibadan and the inauguration of a Building Scheme will have taken place in November, attended by His Excellency the Governor and the Secretary of State for the Colonies.”

“The enactment of the Education Ordinance together with its accompanying Grants-in-Aid Regulations marks a most important step forward in the field of Education.”

Suitable references were made about Adult Education and the establishment of the University in your printed speech. These are very encouraging. Yet, Sir, we view with grave and consuming concern the result of our schools as reflected by and exemplified in the lives of our young men turned out of these schools. There is obvious lack of culture and self-discipline. They seem to have been educated completely out of touch with the soil or manual labour. They disdain manual work a very bad and pernicious sign. They are out of sympathy with their less favoured fellow countrymen whom they despise to some extent. They are out of sympathy with the bitter truths and stern facts as regards their country.

There is rank selfishness all about. The phrase is "Nothing for nothing"—that is "Don't serve until you are sure of some personal benefit". They believe that they go to school in order to qualify for some employment in Government Service, Mercantile Houses or Mission Work. Once they are accepted, they plunge into Trade Unions, the whole aim of which is increased Personal Emoluments, no matter what effect they have on the poor taxpayers. Government Service is to the majority of them a paved road to affluence. They think that the resources for Personal Emoluments as far as Government is concerned is inexhaustible and probably the money derived for this purpose comes from Great Britain. This is a delusion. Hardly do they think of the good of their employers, the success of their enterprise or the institution in which they are employed. The weapon for winning more and more money is ever in the forefront. I allude to "strike". They do not care to establish reputation and confidence so that their employers could entrust them with responsibilities without supervision. Most of them are "time-serving". I do not for a moment, Sir, make this a sweeping statement. I do not mean to say that every employee is of this category. No! but I do say that this is the description of the majority of those turned out from our modern schools. That is why there are so many trade disputes. We want education, Sir, not only of the head but of heart and hands. We want education for cultural reasons; education which relates to the stern realities of our everyday life so that we can be of service to man and to our generation. Our education if ever it needed spiritual depth and moral background—it is now. That is the magnitude of the task confronting our schools and the Education Department must see to it, lest we flood the country with hooligans, exploiters and agitators, and people who are intoxicated with their own self-importance.

We want education which will equip us for the game as well as the battle of life, education which leads to independence of thought and action—whose motto is service and sacrifice. I wish at this point to turn attention to Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary. Your Honour, in your printed speech, has outlined the economic usefulness of the tripartite departments of

Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary. These are fields which if assiduously developed and exploited would realize our economic stability and independence. We want those who are engaged in these industries to realize a reasonable and respectable standard of living, to hold their own with members of professions such as Law and Medicine. It is only in this way, Sir, that young men with good educational background can be attracted to these industries.

I next say a word about the Public Works Department. I think on the whole this department deserves appreciation. Last year I made a very serious observation on the importance and urgency of reconstructing the Uyaron Bridge on the Aba-Oron Road and that it should be widened as there have been so many accidents of a serious nature with lorries tumbling over it to the disastrous and untimely deaths of the passengers. The tarring of this road is progressing at a real snail's pace and one wonders what is the cause. If it is due to want of money I would suggest an increased vote; if the cause is lack of staff I would suggest that the project be given over to contractors.

It concerns us very much to know how many miles per annum it is intended that this work should advance. Here I might mention this Calabar-Mamfe Road is where we also look forward for some accelerated progress.

Motor Transport: We are glad that rigid control of motor transport is removed completely. The affairs of this world are moving at an incredible velocity and motor transport has become a necessity.

We feel Government should do all it can to induce transport to be reasonably cheap. We want mass production of motor vehicles so that motor cars and lorries may resume their pre-war cost. I do not know how this could be done through the avenue of this House, but I think the authority could still pull wires somewhere and keep things going. We note with interest that petrol situation is gradually relaxing. In Calabar township and in certain other townships people have become taxi-minded. In the township of Calabar the Oil Control can only permit six taxis to ply. In that area about 95 per cent of the inhabitants cannot afford to own private cars and so they avail themselves of taxi services to speed up their business or to get to their offices in time. Yet the Oil Control turned down applications in order to avoid taxis being more than six. I think that the minimum number of taxis to cope with the present demand is about twenty. On the question of motor transport I quote an extract from Your Honour's Address:—

“The shortage of petrol supplies and delays in distribution have occasioned some dislocation principally among private vehicle owners”.

With the object of saving petrol, Government has sanctioned that officials should do one stretch a day. It is difficult, Sir, to accept this as a sound and economic policy. Petrol indeed may be saved at the expense of the health of the workers. It seems to me that it is too much physically to expect them to work without sufficient recess and relaxation for six hours. Surely the health of the workers will break down and the quality of the work will deteriorate. We therefore wish Government to reconsider this matter. I wonder how they could get on without relaxation.

Posts and Telegraphs: I would like to mention that Calabar has been waiting for the implementation of Government's decision to build a larger Post Office in Calabar and set up a Telephone Office with better equipment. I mentioned last year that Opobo Township required Telephone Services and that it was a pressing need. I wonder whether any step has been taken to satisfy the situation.

Self-Government for Nigeria: I now turn or call attention to the thorny question of self-rule for Nigeria which is gaining currency among the people and agitating almost every stratum of Nigerian society. For some time now, self-government for Nigeria has been the clarion war-cry of a section of the Nigerian public and press. The claim has been exaggerated to an abnormal proportion and they have even fixed the time for the realisation of it. The idea has untold weight and gravity with the masses of the people who are ignorant or ill-educated. They are urged to believe that they are over-ripe for political autonomy. This loud clamour for independence is a dangerous ruse utilised to win votaries and satellites. They have a secret selfish motive to exploit the people and to divert and misdirect their loyalty for material personal gains.

I speak with undisputed authority when I say that there is no genuine person—European or African—who does not contemplate the future independence of Nigeria. We are witnessing steps which are marshalled forward in order to achieve this. It may not be as spectacular or revolutionary as certain people would like. On our own part we hope to reach self-government status gradually by peaceful methods.

We emphatically deprecate every false show, and repudiate all measures suggestive of violence, revolution and organised political disobedience as means to achieve our independence. In fact no sane person, no Member of Legislative Council or of the Regional Houses should associate himself with such a seditious body of propagandism.

Every senior post is afforded a Nigerian in the Government service, when the Medical Department absorbs so many Medical Practitioners, when we have among their rank a Regional Deputy Director and Senior Medical Officers; when the Judicial Benches can accept African Judges and a host of Magistrates; when every

step is being taken to provide higher education for our boys and girls; when we are setting up a University at Ibadan for the manufacture of our future leaders and the production of men and women to fill the senior posts in the Government, when steps are being taken to encourage industries and private African enterprise—then there is but one irrefutable conclusion that we are paving in the normal course of things the way for the realisation of a true and lasting independence for Nigeria of tomorrow.

In reading the report of the Commission appointed by His Excellency the Governor to make recommendations about the recruitment and training of Nigerians for Senior Posts in the Government service of Nigeria, one is left with the conviction that surely steps have been taken towards our future independence and self-government.

The Commission's report in this connection could be summarised in a few words:—

- (a) That the Senior Posts in the Government service should be filled by Nigerians wherever and whenever suitable and competent candidates or materials are available. Provision is made whereby African Civil Servants, who are non-Nigerians already in the service of the Nigerian Government, should continue. I am not happy in any way that we should at any stage of our existence contemplate the elimination from Nigerian Service those Africans who are not Nigerians;
- (b) If adequate and competent candidates or materials are not available Nigerians should obtain Government scholarships to qualify for Senior Posts;
- (c) As in the Government so also in the Native Authorities and Voluntary Agencies, Government scholarships should be made available;
- (d) Government scholarships should be made available to those who are prosecuting private courses in life, such as Law, Medicine, Commerce and Industry, etc.

After such a report has been submitted to Government for immediate implementation it beats one's imagination to find that a section of the Nigerian public and press is continuing to preach heresies. They arrogate to themselves the monopolistic prerogative to lead the people; to understand the people; to stand for the people and to interpret the people to the Government and *vice versa*. They are still teaching the people to believe that Government is impeding in every way their progress towards self-rule, therefore the people should arm to the teeth at once against such a wicked and obnoxious Government. Among those things they advise I may mention:—

- (a) that the people should not accept Government scholarships;

(b) that the people should not pay tax to the Government.

In short they are now advocating that our all round progress towards political freedom or autonomy should be definitely stultified, and that we should be left without any means of meeting social amenities of the people and that the development of the country in every conceivable way should collapse. The question is "Where are we now with this kind of psychology and leadership?" "Are these leaders of our glorified National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons serious?" "Are they the country's benefactors or destroyers?" A great and inescapable task is before Government to take adequate, competent and immediate steps to educate the public to discover the truth about things. This spurious leadership and their hollow, false and misleading propaganda and doctrine, my constituencies requested me to repudiate before you all as being pernicious to the interest of the country. I now do so emphatically and in no uncertain terms that we have nothing to do with such heresies or seditions.

Your Honour, I thank you for patient audience and with these few observations I beg to support the Estimate of Expenditure now before this House.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

If it is the pleasure of Members I propose that this House should now adjourn and resume at 10 a.m. tomorrow morning (Aye).

The House adjourned at 11.10 a.m. until 10 a.m. on Tuesday the 14th of December, 1948.

APPENDIX TO FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS

ADDRESS BY HIS HONOUR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER

MEMBERS OF THE EASTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

On this the second true Budget Session of this House it is my privilege to lay before you a Budget Address, to review the achievements and progress attained since the beginning of 1948 and to look forward to the tasks that still lie before us. I would explain that the review covers the period up to the end of August since time is necessary to correlate reports from the Provinces and the Departments and for the printing of the Address. It is the intention in future for such reviews to reflect the yearly period from 1st September to 31st August.

The period under review has been one of peace and of steady and, in some cases, unspectacular, development; legislation has been and is to be enacted which will be of far-reaching benefit to education and agriculture, including the palm produce industry; Local Government reform is very much in the forefront; the Port Harcourt Township Ordinance confers municipal status as from 1st

January, 1949; decentralisation of the functions of the Nigerian Local Development Board is under consideration, together with the proposal that Native Authorities will be enabled to loan their surplus funds to the Board.

While it appears from the foregoing that economic matters have taken pride of place, unremitting attention has been given to the expansion and development of social services, to reform in Native Administration and in the Native Courts designed to improve efficiency and ensure greater participation by the people in their own affairs, and to bring the people a greater measure of understanding of Government policy and activities.

At the time of writing this Address, I am not in the position to make any comment on the Regional revenue allocations or on the draft Regional estimates of expenditure which you have now before you, and details of which will be given you by the Secretary (Finance). Drastic economy has been rendered a matter of necessity, as will be fully explained to you.

Perhaps the outstanding event of the period under review has been the preparation for Local Government reform. Members of this House are well aware of the background to this movement, which resulted in the appointment of a Select Committee of all the Unofficial Members during the July meeting of the House to examine existing Local Government machinery and make recommendations for reform. The Report of the Select Committee has been printed and has had the widest circulation amongst Native Authorities, Councils, Tribal and Welfare Unions and individuals. Comments on and, criticism of, the Report have been invited, and Members of this House have taken and are taking an active part in sounding public opinion in this question of paramount importance to each and every individual in the Eastern Region.

We are now in the process of assessing public opinion in this matter and it is my intention to call an Extraordinary meeting of this House in February next when Members will have the opportunity of offering their views and advice in debate on Local Government reform.

The intention is that, in the light of this debate, draft legislation for a Local Government Bill will be prepared and placed before this House with the least delay possible. The Bill will of course be subject to the usual constitutional procedure.

An important development in Local Government has been the raising to Municipality status of the township of Port Harcourt. The Port Harcourt Township Ordinance operates as from the 1st January, 1949, creating a first class Township, and providing for a Town Council consisting of a number of members elected by Wards and of not more than half that number of appointed members. The Council will have authority to levy a rate and will employ its own Municipal Officers and Staff.

During the period under review the Port Harcourt Town Planning Authority has gone ahead with the planning and putting into operation of new residential lay-outs.

Members of this House will recollect that for some time past there has been a steadily growing demand for the withdrawal of the manilla from circulation, and are aware of the steadily increasing value of the manilla as against currency. The wage-earning classes were the hardest hit by this hardening of manilla value. Accordingly, Government has made available the necessary funds for withdrawal of the manilla from circulation by way of redemption, and general publicity was given to the programme by which redemption of the manilla was to begin on 1st October, and be carried on for a period of six months. Careful arrangements have been made so that the people can change their manillas into currency with the minimum amount of trouble and travelling. It remains to be seen whether the people will co-operate fully to relegate the manilla into its long desired obscurity.

A further development of the utmost importance concerns the regulation and control of marketing and export of oil palm produce, and a Bill designed to establish a Marketing Board, a Representative Committee, and Regional Production Development Boards will be introduced during this session of the House. The effects of this scheme on the Eastern Region will be far-reaching and of inestimable benefit. At the same time, a scheme for marketing and export of groundnuts, benniseed and oil seeds other than oil palm produce and another for cotton seeds, similar in all detail, are also embodied in Bills to be introduced to the House during the present session.

The series of murders which occurred in parts of the Abak and Opobo Divisions of the Calabar Province, which became known as "Leopard Murders" appears to have ceased and it is hoped that these atrocious crimes are a thing of the past. The affected area is now under normal administration and the additional Police Forces posted to the area were progressively reduced and finally removed during May.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir John Stuart Macpherson, K.C.M.G., arrived in Nigeria on the 14th April, 1948, and shortly afterwards toured parts of Nigeria, visiting the Eastern Region from 15th to 24th May. His Excellency took the opportunity of meeting as many Native Authorities and individuals, and visiting as many institutions as was possible in the short time available, and attended the Empire Day celebrations at Onitsha where some 18,000 school children had assembled.

During the month of April, a Parliamentary Sub-Committee visited Enugu and heard evidence from both official and unofficial quarters on the progress of development.

Lord Hailey visited the Region during February and carried out investigation into the use of the Native Authority system as an agency of Local Government.

His Honour Sir Bernard Carr, C.M.G., Chief Commissioner and President of this House proceeded on leave on 5th October, prior to retirement. Mr S. A. McKinstry, Senior Crown Counsel and a Member of this House proceeded on leave on 8th September, also prior to retirement. I know that I shall be expressing your wishes in thanking them for their services to this House and wishing them health and prosperity in the future.

Progress in the field of Native Administration has been mainly one of consolidation and of trial. It was considered that the time had come when the people had absorbed all that they could of a sense of financial responsibility by the institution of numerous small treasuries and, that financial stringency made financial federation into larger treasury units a matter of necessity. This policy has been carried out in the Onitsha, Awgu and Awka Divisions of the Onitsha Province, and in the Okigwi Division of the Owerri Province, while proposals for such federation are under consideration for the Afikpo Division of the Ogoja Province and in the Aba Division of the Owerri Province.

But financial considerations are not alone in the conditioning of reform since reform must be such as to keep pace with the ever changing economic and social conditions of the people. Where possible, therefore, and after due consultation with the people, the aim has been to create larger units of Local Government over the existing framework of subsidiary councils, the authorities consisting of compact bodies with as large a proportion of educated and literate men as possible, with the object of bringing more vigour and efficiency into Local Government affairs.

This policy has been achieved in the case of the Bende Division of the Owerri Province, where the four federal Native Authorities were replaced by a Divisional Native Authority on 1st April, after a series of popular elections. Of the forty-nine members of this Native Authority, fourteen are of good education and another twenty literate. It is yet early to assess the success of this reform but already much sound work has been carried out. The Executive Committee of the Native Authority has functioned efficiently, and achievements include the framing of Standing Rules, the preparation of estimates, including the search for new sources of revenue together with the courageous recommendation of an increase of 6d in the flat rate of direct tax, and lastly downward revision in the salaries of members of subsidiary councils and of Native Courts.

On 1st April, an important measure of reform was carried out in the Onitsha Division, where the whole Division, with the exception of the existing Onitsha Town Native Authority area,

was placed under a single Native Authority, known as the Onitsha Rural Areas Native Authority, with a single treasury. Here, Local Government has been built up on a pyramidal system of councils and membership of such councils is by popular election and not by traditional title. Election to the Native Authority was carried out by electoral colleges composed of Group and Area Councils and elections made from their own members.

“ORANA” as the Native Authority has come to be called, has had its teething troubles, but has taken its responsibilities seriously and has formed an Executive Committee to deal with the day-to-day affairs of the Native Authority and, Finance and Works Committees are now functioning. Care has been taken to ensure that the people are kept fully informed on Local Government affairs and that all concerned are kept alive to the necessity of preserving the chain of responsibility. Provided this is maintained, Local Government will be a reality and not a hollow sham.

In the Cameroons Province schemes for federation of small Native Authorities have been prepared. That for the federation of the Bansa, Bafut and Ndop Native Administrations in the Bamenda Division being notable for the proposal that councils will be comprised of traditional, progressive and female representation in fixed proportions.

Perhaps the boldest measure of reform was carried out in the Kalabari Clan of the Degema Division, Rivers Province, where, after careful preparation, a Native Authority was elected by the two means of secret ballot and popular election, the first occasion on which the use of the secret ballot has been made in such elections. It proved to be an unqualified success, and has resulted in a more progressive Native Authority with a substantial proportion of the educated and literate.

Elsewhere, reform in Local Government of a more subdued nature has been steadily achieved, with the object of reducing unwieldy councils to reasonable limits consistent with efficiency and proper representation, and of affording the educated and literate classes the opportunity to take a hand in Local Government affairs.

Local Government will be faced with ever-increasing social and economic problems, and such measures of reform that have been carried out have paid due regard to the necessity for preparing Local Government bodies to meet these problems squarely. Much has still to be done to devise and set up efficient machinery, as Members of this House are only too well aware. Self-interest and parochialism must go under and give way to enlightened and progressive effort.

Financially, the Native Authorities can be said to have weathered the storm of increased salaries fairly successfully, and

soil and climate are suitable for cocoa-growing. There is considerable scope for improvement. It is proposed to lay down experimental and demonstration plots at different centres and nurseries from which improved planting material can be issued. A further problem of evacuation of cocoa from the producing areas is under consideration.

A most important development is the growth of rice production. A rice mill was opened at Aguleri in the Onitsha Division in February and during the first five months of operation sixty-one and a half tons of paddy were processed, producing forty-one tons of rice. A second mill at Okpoha in the Afikpo Division was opened in October, while a third is to be installed at Abakaliki.

Extension work on paddy cultivation will proceed as fast as limited staff will permit and arrangements are in hand for improving and extending methods of raising pure-lime seed for distribution to cultivators.

Experiments on the effects of artificial manures were continued throughout the year and farmers have been encouraged to see for themselves the results of artificial manure on crops. There has been a great increase in the number of liming demonstrations carried out during the year and farmers are increasingly keen for such demonstrations to be carried out on their land. An order has been placed for lime-crushing machinery which should provide cheaper and more satisfactory lime than the kilns at Awgu, the present source of supply.

An oil palm survey of an area of approximately ten square miles was started at the beginning of the year in the Nung Udoe area of the Uyo Division, a typical oil palm area. Records of yield, type of fruit and harvesting, density and age of palms and of disease are being compiled and from these the possibility of improvement can be assessed.

The presence in considerable quantity of a fibre *Clappertonia Ficifolia* in the Eket Division of the Calabar Province has aroused interest and the Department is investigating the possibilities of producing a trial crop. This fibre possesses all the qualities of jute, of which most important product there is a world shortage.

The Pioneer Oil Mill has established itself in the Region and there are five such mills in operation and one under construction, that at Amansi in the Awka Division of the Onitsha Province being run by private African enterprise, namely the Ibez Company of Onitsha. Members are aware that at the outset there was considerable opposition to the introduction of these mills from the conservative elements, but this opposition is rapidly dying as the advantages provided by the greater output and improved quality of oil are appreciated. In the Owerri Province, it is reported that there are signs of growing confidence in the existing mills at Amuro, Azumini and Umuchima, where the tonnage of fruit milled

is gradually increasing. One private company has applied for a loan to erect a mill of its own near Nsulu in the Aba Division, while there is at present competition for the purchase of the Amuro Mill. The Ahoada Mill in the Rivers Province has proved a success and here again application to purchase has been made by a group of local oil producers. In the Province, sites for three more mills have been selected and await the plant.

In the Calabar Province, a mill is in course of construction near Calabar, while sites for three further mills have been selected in the Uyo, Eket and Opobo Divisions. Returns of output over the period under review show that the monthly quantity of fruit milled varied from 184 tons at the Umuchima Mill in March to forty-two tons at the Ahoada Mill in August, the extraction rate varying from 20.9 per cent in the case of the Amuro and Umuchima Mills down to 16.2 per cent for the Ahoada Mill.

In addition to the mills some 1,000 hand presses have been purchased during the year, proof, if proof were needed, that the introduction of the Pioneer Mill is in no way taking the bread out of the mouth of the hand-press operator.

Although the rainfall during the period under review shows a slight decrease over the same period during 1947, a good harvest has been assured. Market prices of the main foodstuffs, particularly with yams, show an increase over the preceding year, mainly due to the increased money in circulation.

The problems connected with soil erosion and conservation have continued to receive attention. This work has been practically confined to the Onitsha Province where soil erosion is most acute. A planning Committee has met monthly to formulate proposals for programmes of work to be carried out under the direction of a Development Officer. The people have been encouraged to carry out anti-erosion measures for themselves, while experimental work is confined to four agricultural plots where investigations are concerned with the best methods of establishing cover on eroded land and of checking surface and gully erosion. Farmers are being encouraged to adopt contour cultivation and to plant acioa to improve soil cover. The services of the Native Authorities are being enlisted in this vitally important work.

Co-operative Societies

The Co-operative movement has made steady headway during the period under review, particularly with Thrift and Credit Societies in the Calabar Province, where expansion threatens to outrun available supervision. Co-operative Produce Marketing Societies number forty-one, all but four of these being in the Cameroons Province, and practically exclusively confined to the marketing of cocoa, with much smaller quantities of coffee, palm kernels, cotton and farm produce.

Kumba Division nearly seventeen per cent. There is no forest estate in the Victoria Division although in three instances, the German plantation deeds provided for the permanent retention under forest of one-third of their respective areas. This problem is receiving the attention of the Department. In the Cameroons Province, also, an enumeration survey has been completed in the Southern Bakundu Reserve, a reconnaissance survey of the Bassossi District reveals that approximately eighty square miles will be available for reservation, preliminary surveys of the Cameroon Mountain proposed reserve and of the Native Administration reserve in the Mahole area of the Bassossi District have been completed, and survey of the proposed Mawne River Reserve in the Mamfe Division continued.

In general, it must be realised that with the withdrawal of the Regulations from all of the Region except the Cameroons Province, the Forestry Department has practically ceased to be revenue-producing in so far as the Eastern Region is concerned. There is an immediate need for the production of timber from the Reserves on a system of sustained annual yield. There is an acute shortage of sawn timber and export has, with the exception of the working of the Société Africaine Forestiere et Agricole in the Kumba Division, virtually ceased.

Veterinary

Activities have been mainly confined to the Bamenda Division of the Cameroons Province, where at Jakiri the building programme for a Livestock Improvement Centre is nearing completion. The Centre attracts many interested stock farmers and their womenfolk, the latter being particularly interested in calf-rearing and dairy production. In addition, steady expansion of Veterinary work in the Bamenda Highlands includes the increased treatment of vaccination of animals and propaganda for more selective breeding.

The Cattle trade in the Region continues in considerable volume, some 40,000 slaughter cattle from the North and the Cameroons being marketed during the first six months of the year. A large percentage of these cattle concentrate on Umuahia in the Owerri Province, where some 43,000 head of cattle are marketed annually, arriving by rail and on the hoof. Plans are nearing completion for a properly constructed cattle-kraal at Umuahia with rail off-loading facilities and a pipe-borne water supply.

Much work remains to be done in establishing recognised cattle routes and facilitating the movement of cattle on the hoof which at present arrive at their destinations in an emaciated condition.

The preparation of hides for the export market has shown slight improvement but there is still much wastage of valuable hides due to faulty preparation and, I regret to say, to their continued use in some areas as an article of diet.

With improved communications, it is hoped that immunisation of cattle in the Bamenda Highlands against viable rinderpest will be a possibility, by the avoidance of delay in transmitting the virus from the Vom Laboratory. A start has been made in parts of the Ogoja Province with preventive vaccine against anthrax, which has been responsible for a number of animal and some human deaths. In the Bamenda Highlands there has been an increase in clinical cases of animals treated and of vaccinations against Blackwater and Hæmorrhagic Septicæmia.

Commerce and Industries

There has been a slight increase in the export of palm produce over the corresponding period of 1947, due in part to the higher prices which came into force in March of this year. Supplies of imported goods are on the increase, as is the range. Trade is now carried out in a buyer's market, but there has been an overall increase in turnover. Certain quick-selling commodities are still in short supply notably petrol, kerosene, soap and the more popular brands of bicycles, but the position regarding textiles and building materials has eased to some extent.

Reports indicate that the benniseed crop, confined to the Ogoja Province, will be well above average and the total purchased during the period under review is 443 tons against 200 for the corresponding period of 1947. It is estimated that total purchases by the end of the season will be some seventy-five per cent greater than the previous record of 1943-44.

Much interest has been aroused among the creek peoples of the Rivers Province in fishery development. Plans for establishing a Regional centre at Port Harcourt near completion and operations of an experimental nature will be carried out in 1949. In the Brass area there has been an influx of fishermen from the Ondo Province and these have had some success in sea-fishing.

Details of the Pioneer Oil Mills are given elsewhere in the Report. These mills are controlled by the Department of Commerce and Industries and managed by an officer of the Department.

132 tons of castor seed were marketed from the Bamenda Division of the Cameroons Province.

A sugar cane crusher has been in operation at Bamunka and Babungu in the Bamenda Division.

Sales of Arabica coffee beans were approximately six tons with over twenty tons awaiting a market at the Farmers' Store at Santa, in the Bamenda Division. On receipt of a favourable report on the quality of Bamenda coffee samples sent to the United Kingdom for analysis and valuation, the price paid to producers was increased to £84 a ton as from the 13th of April, 1948. This increase has stimulated fresh planting and better maintenance of existing plots.

In the Kumba Division of the Cameroons Province, a flourishing brick and tile industry controlled by Native Administration is shortly

In the Owerri Province a C.M.S. Elementary Training Centre at Owerri awaits the acquisition of the necessary land as does the proposed extension of the Uzuakoli Methodist Higher Elementary Mission Centre.

In the Rivers Province the Diobu Anglican Mission Elementary Training Centre has practically completed its building programme.

Government development schemes for the expansion of secondary education and teacher training have continued to be carried out. A new block of classrooms for the Government College, Umuahia, is on the way to completion. At the Uyo Men's Teacher Training Centre permanent buildings to replace the present temporary buildings are in the course of erection. This Centre will be one of the new training centres allowed for under the Ten Year Plan. Work has begun on buildings for the Women's Elementary Teacher Training Centre at Enugu and it is anticipated that the first batch of students will be admitted in 1949.

A new Government School at Ikot Ibritam in the Abak Division of the Calabar Province was opened in January. It is at present still in the Junior Primary stage.

Expansion of primary education by the Missions has continued. In the Ogoja Province the total number of children enrolled at all primary schools shows an increase of nine per cent over last year's figure. In the Onitsha Province it is estimated that 41.3 per cent of the total child population are attending school. In the Degema Division of the Rivers Province it is estimated that forty-five per cent of the total number of children between the ages of six and sixteen are receiving primary education.

Native Administrations continue to take a keen interest in educational matters. In the Cameroons Province no less than twenty-eight primary schools are maintained by the Native Administrations, with a total attendance of 2,900 children. In the Calabar Province there are eighteen primary schools maintained by the Native Authorities who continue to give grants to Mission Schools in their areas. The same applies to the Ogoja Province where there are two Native Administration schools and where grants to Mission schools have been continued.

Local Education Committees have been formed at Abakaliki, Ogoja, Bansara and Ediba in the Ogoja Province and that at Abakaliki is taking a keen interest in Mass Literacy work.

In the field of adult education progress has been achieved in the Calabar Province where two schemes under the control of a Mass Education Officer are in operation in the Eket and Calabar areas. The schemes consist of some sixty centres each with their

provision of more segregation villages. A training course for Leprosy Inspectors has been inaugurated.

A Leper Settlement is in the course of construction at Isoba in the Ahoada Division of the Rivers Province and will form the centre of anti-leprosy measures for the Province. It is proposed to open a Leper Clinic at Eleme in the Ogoni Division.

Anti-leprosy work in the Ogoja Province has been continued by the Roman Catholic and Church of Scotland Missions each with a Leprologist. The total number of patients who received treatment represents a substantial increase over the figure for 1947. Both Missions receive financial assistance from the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association and from the Native Administrations. Proposals are afoot for the establishment of more segregation villages, and Leprosy Survey is being carried out. Figures available show an incidence of six per cent in one area.

Motor Transport

The shortage of petrol supplies and delays in distribution have occasioned some dislocation principally among private vehicle owners. Produce transport has continued to be accorded priority in supply.

Marine

The fortnightly service between Lagos-Calabar-Victoria-Port Harcourt-Lagos has been maintained during the period under review, as have the monthly passage and freight service from Port Harcourt to Akassa and the Onitsha-Asaba ferry.

Waterway clearing has been carried out on the Cross River and the Eastern and Western Aboine Rivers in the Ogoja Province, and the Ndian River, the Ndian-Calabar launch route and the Cross River and its tributaries in the Calabar Province, and the Mungo and Meme Rivers in the Cameroons Province.

Ports

The Port Harcourt Port Advisory Committee was reconstituted in April and has examined and reported on steps to be taken with a view to future planning and effectively enclosing the Customs area. In general the Port has been run efficiently and smoothly. It is proposed that an advisory committee be set up for the Port of Calabar. At Port Harcourt there has been a tightening up of control in the Customs area resulting in a considerable reduction in the amount of pilferage from the wharves and warehouses.

Public Works

The staff position during the period under review has improved and the supply position has eased to some extent.

The House of Assembly building, the foundation stones of which were laid with due ceremony on 15th December, 1947, has

made steady progress and should be completed towards the end of 1949. Buildings for a new Printing establishment at Enugu have made rapid headway and will be completed by the end of the year. Further provision for housing of Government staff has received attention, four more quarters having been completed at Enugu and others at Abakaliki, Onitsha, Aba, Victoria, Kumba and Bamenda for Senior Service staff, while good progress has been made with the Junior Service housing schemes at Enugu, Victoria and Buea. At Umuahia, slower progress has been achieved in the build up of a Provincial headquarters.

The Catering Rest House at Onitsha is now complete and functioning and rapid progress has been made in the erection of the new Onitsha Hospital. At Port Harcourt, a block of four flats nears completion and work has begun on the Automatic telephone exchange building. At Aba, a School for Sanitary Inspectors nears completion as does the Probationer Nurses Training School. Work has recommenced on the Central Leprosy Unit at Oji River, Onitsha Province, and is well in hand at the new Leper Settlement at Isoba in the Rivers Province.

Road development continues. During the last dry season the pilot road between Bansara and Mamfe was motorable and a start has now been made from the Bansara end to raise this road to third class Public Works Department standard. The present canoe ferries operating on the Aya, Afi and Munaya Rivers will be replaced by permanent bridges and designs for the Cross River Bridge have been completed. Construction of the Calabar-Mamfe road has now reached over sixty miles from Calabar and will eventually join the Bansara-Mamfe road at a point thirty-five miles from Mamfe and ninety-eight miles from Calabar.

In the Bamenda Division, progress on the projected "ring" road has continued, work on the Bafut-Modele road having reached Befang. The other end of the "ring" road, starting at Nkambe is expected to be motorable to mile 126 from Bamenda by March, 1949.

A reconnaissance of the projected road from Ahoada to Yenagoa in the Rivers Province has been completed and the feasibility of its construction established. A proper road survey for the preparation of construction plans is to be undertaken.

Tarring of the Onitsha-Oron road continues.

Work on urban and rural water supplies has continued. At Onitsha the laying of a ten-inch main from a new intake to the existing reservoir has been completed, and an engine and pump installed, giving an additional supply of 100,000 gallons a day. Percussion drilling has reached a depth of 360 feet, where water was encountered, rising to a height of eighty feet in the tube. Drilling continues. A scheme for the improvement of the Port Harcourt water supply is being undertaken, while the installation of new

dispensaries were opened during the year, three in the Afikpo Division, two in the Abakaliki Division and one in the Ikom Division; in the Calabar Province two new dispensaries have been completed in the Ikot Ekpene Division, one in the Calabar Division and one in the Opobo Division, while one such dispensary has been opened at Bamenda and two at Njinikom and Nkambe in that Division are about to be opened. Throughout the Region, attendances at the dispensaries have been maintained and their work plays a valuable part in the general medical organisation, but difficulty has been experienced in maintaining an adequate supply of drugs and dressings.

An outbreak of smallpox in the Eastern Ijo area of the Rivers Province resulted in a vaccination campaign being carried out in the area, over 12,000 people being vaccinated by Native Administration staff, and a similar campaign has been undertaken in parts of the Bamenda Division.

Attention has been given to the prevalence of sleeping sickness in the Obudu District and parts of the Ogoja Division of the Ogoja Province, where two Sleeping Sickness attendants are posted. Recent preliminary surveys indicate that the incidence of sleeping sickness in these areas merits more intensive survey and control, and to this end a Sleeping Sickness Service team together with a Field Unit Survey team are now carrying out a thorough survey of the areas. It may be added that the co-operation of the people is a necessary factor if the work is to be a success.

In the Kumba Division of the Cameroons Province a Yellow Fever research team from the Rockefeller Foundation is carrying out investigations into the incidence and origin of yellow fever and with the co-operation of the people carrying out immunity measures.

In the townships of Port Harcourt and Enugu, conservancy labour became dissatisfied over terms of service. Improved terms have been offered and accepted, which will be reflected in increased conservancy fees.

Leprosy

The campaign against leprosy has been intensified and from the Owerri Province comes the report that the Leprosy Service with its centre at the Leper Settlement at Uzuakoli has extended its work to every division in the Province, maintaining sixty-two clinics and thirty-three segregation villages housing nearly 4,000 patients. There are indications of a decline in the incidence of leprosy, particularly in the Bende Division where during the period under review, symptom-free discharges considerably exceeded new admissions.

In the Onitsha Province, from the Leper Settlement at Oji River, intense propaganda has been carried out aimed at the

own organizers. An adult education campaign has been planned for the Afikpo Division of the Ogoja Province. The Afikpo Federated Native Authority has formed a committee of educated men to run the campaign for which there appears to be considerable enthusiasm.

At Enugu the Education Department undertakes technical training at the Trade Training School where ex-service tradesmen are given refresher courses of six months duration. The courses include lectures and classes in the theory of the various trades in which instruction is given, and the low level of general education of some of the trainees has proved a handicap to them. Work is at present being undertaken which will ultimately expand the School into the Trade Centre for the Eastern Provinces which is being financed from Colonial Development and Welfare sources. The actual construction involved is being undertaken under the supervision of the School staff. This Trade Centre is expected to open in 1950 and will provide full five-year apprenticeship courses. By that date, it is assumed that the ex-servicemen's Trade Training School will no longer be needed in its present form.

Medical

In the medical field, the development programme has been somewhat retarded due to two factors, lack of funds and shortage of building materials and of technical staff.

Nevertheless, new hospital buildings at Abakaliki were completed at the beginning of the year and provide for thirty beds; the new hospital buildings at Onitsha are proceeding apace and should be completed by the 31st March, 1949.

In pursuance of policy whereby the work of Medical Missions is to be co-ordinated in the general scheme for Medical development, the Roman Catholic Mission has agreed to build a hospital at Amaigbo near Orlu out of Government funds and when completed, the Mission will maintain and run the hospital on behalf of Government. Similarly, negotiations with the Methodist Mission are proceeding for the erection of a hospital at Bori, in the Ogoni Division.

Government has taken over from the Methodist Mission the care of the Maternity Hospital at Ikot Ekpene.

Medical development under the auspices of the Native Authorities has proceeded. In the Rivers Province, a maternity home was recently opened at Buguma in the Degema Division and another is nearing completion at Omokur in the Ahoada Division. In the Calabar Province lying-in wards have been built in the Opobo and Itu Divisions, while two more are projected for the Abak Division.

The work of the Native Administration dispensaries has been satisfactorily maintained. In the Ogoja Province six such

electrically driven pumps at Calabar will improve the supply. At Abakaliki, the construction of a new reservoir is proceeding and is nearly complete, and a section of rising main from the intake on the Eastern Aboine River completed. Mention has already been made of a programme for rehabilitation of existing wells and construction of new ones in the Owerri and Calabar Provinces. In the Nsukka Division of the Onitsha Province, small tanks have been installed and improvements to springs carried out. Drilling equipment will be used to test the deep-seated ground water. A similar programme of tank construction and spring improvement is being carried out in the Udi Division.

In addition to development works, the Department has carried out routine maintenance on existing works and communications, an unspectacular but vital service which is the first responsibility of the Department.

Civil Aviation

The regular services have been satisfactorily maintained throughout the period under review, despite adverse weather conditions. Plans for the construction of an airfield at Bamenda await selection of a suitable site. A new runway for the Calabar aerodrome and extension to the Tiko aerodrome are proceeding. During February the first aircraft landed at the Mamfe airfield after a period of twenty-two months.

Mines

The Mines Department has established an inspectorate for the Region since March, 1947, and has continued its work. Applications have been received from Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria and from Gold and Base Metal Mines of Nigeria Ltd. for the grant of Special Exclusive Prospecting Licences in parts of the Ogoja, Onitsha and Owerri Provinces. The former company has applied for two licences and the latter is renewing a licence already granted.

In the Owerri Province, the Shell D'Arcy Group has continued its work with exploration parties engaged in carrying out seismic survey.

Geological Survey

A senior geologist was posted to the Region during the period under review.

Preliminary surveys and prospecting have been carried out by the Department in the north-east, south-east and centre of the Bamenda Division and in part of the Kumba Division.

Colliery

The output for the period under review was 370,017 tons a decrease of 39,715 tons on the corresponding period of 1947, due to labour unrest. With the co-operation of the Colliery Workers' Union, a system of bonus awards and tallies has been introduced and it is expected that greater output will result.

Police

The morale and efficiency of the Police Force has remained at a high standard. Throughout the period under review, there has been no major disturbance with which the Police have had to deal. Available statistics show an increase in larceny offences but the incidence of crime generally remains the same as in 1947.

The Southern Training School continues in its work of training of recruits. In May, His Excellency the Governor took the salute at the passing-out parade and presented a baton to the best recruit.

New police barracks are being erected for the detachments at Buea and Kumba in the Cameroons Province.

Prisons

The daily average population of all prisons shows a decline from the preceding year. The health and discipline of prisoners has remained satisfactory. The wage-earning scheme and aid to deserving prisoners on discharge have continued successfully.

The Warders Training Depot at Enugu has passed out 141 Government warders, nine Government wardresses and sixty Native Administration warders during the period under review.

The approved institution at Hill Top, Enugu, has functioned efficiently.

Legal

Owing to shortage of staff, the Senior Crown Counsel has been single-handed since May.

Judicial

The shortage of staff experienced in 1947 has eased to some extent and all the judicial divisions are up to strength, including one acting Judge. A further judicial division is to be created, with Port Harcourt as headquarters, to relieve pressure of work in the existing divisions.

Posts and Telegraphs

The public demand for increased postal and telegraph services has continued and the expansion of postal business has been maintained. A new post office building at Owerri was opened during the year, as also was a smaller building at Arochuku in the Calabar Province. In that Province, too, four new postal agencies were opened and several stamp vending permits issued.

Mail services have been maintained, not without difficulty in some instances, due to faulty distribution of petrol supplies, and have been increased in frequency in the Ogoja, Calabar and Cameroons Provinces.

A wireless transmitter and receiver were installed at Brass in May and have operated intermittently. The new service has proved of great value. The Bamenda wireless station was out of action

for three months earlier in the year and communication was maintained by bicycle messenger and lorry to Mamfe, ninety-six miles away, where the wireless station stood up well to the extra burden. The new Tiko transmitter came into operation in August and is able to transmit direct to Mamfe and Bamenda. A telegraph link to Orlu in the Owerri Province will be in operation shortly. Telephone services have been maintained, but with some difficulty in certain areas, notably Buea, Tiko and Victoria.

A new telephone switch board has been installed at Uyo and an automatic telephone exchange is to be installed at Port Harcourt.

Electricity

The Victoria electrification scheme has progressed rapidly and should be completed by the end of the year, nearly all Government buildings having already been wired. Work is commencing on the Njoke River (Cameroons) Hydro-electric scheme and the power station plant is expected by the middle of 1949. Detailed survey work has started on the overhead line route to Victoria, the cables being carried by reinforced concrete poles cast vertically *in situ*.

Additional power to supplement the present inadequate output at Port Harcourt with the imminent arrival of plant and material will be available early in 1949.

The Calabar electricity scheme has had its troubles owing to the breakdown of one of the two available generating sets. The remaining set can only support a load of ninety kilowatts and the shedding of load had to be resorted to during the peak period in the evenings. Essential lighting was, of course, maintained throughout the period. Both generating sets are again in operation and during the peak period, are run in parallel. A third generating set is now being assembled.

Printing

A branch of the Printing Department is to be established at Enugu. The necessary buildings are well on the way to completion and heavy stores and part of the equipment will shortly be delivered. The establishment of a Regional printing press will relieve congestion in the headquarters at Lagos and printing requirements of the Region particularly in respect of the House of Assembly will be met more expeditiously.

Treasury

The Regional accounting organisation was put into effect during the period under review and has centralised control of staff, cash movements, and the compilation of accounts, on a regional basis.

The policy of relieving the Provincial Administration of the responsibility for Local Treasuries has been continued and those at Opobo, Victoria, Kumba, and Bamenda have been transferred to the Department, while on 1st January, the Local Treasuries at Uyo,

The first of these is the fact that the average life expectancy at birth in the United States in 1900 was only 47 years, and that it has since risen to 75 years.

The second is the fact that the average life expectancy at birth in the United States in 1900 was only 47 years, and that it has since risen to 75 years.

The third is the fact that the average life expectancy at birth in the United States in 1900 was only 47 years, and that it has since risen to 75 years.

The fourth is the fact that the average life expectancy at birth in the United States in 1900 was only 47 years, and that it has since risen to 75 years.

The fifth is the fact that the average life expectancy at birth in the United States in 1900 was only 47 years, and that it has since risen to 75 years.

The sixth is the fact that the average life expectancy at birth in the United States in 1900 was only 47 years, and that it has since risen to 75 years.

The seventh is the fact that the average life expectancy at birth in the United States in 1900 was only 47 years, and that it has since risen to 75 years.

The eighth is the fact that the average life expectancy at birth in the United States in 1900 was only 47 years, and that it has since risen to 75 years.

The ninth is the fact that the average life expectancy at birth in the United States in 1900 was only 47 years, and that it has since risen to 75 years.

The tenth is the fact that the average life expectancy at birth in the United States in 1900 was only 47 years, and that it has since risen to 75 years.

The eleventh is the fact that the average life expectancy at birth in the United States in 1900 was only 47 years, and that it has since risen to 75 years.

The twelfth is the fact that the average life expectancy at birth in the United States in 1900 was only 47 years, and that it has since risen to 75 years.

The thirteenth is the fact that the average life expectancy at birth in the United States in 1900 was only 47 years, and that it has since risen to 75 years.

The fourteenth is the fact that the average life expectancy at birth in the United States in 1900 was only 47 years, and that it has since risen to 75 years.

The fifteenth is the fact that the average life expectancy at birth in the United States in 1900 was only 47 years, and that it has since risen to 75 years.

Debates in the Eastern House of Assembly,

Tuesday, the 14th of December, 1948

Pursuant to notice the Members of the Eastern House of
Assembly met in the Garrison Hall, Enugu, at 10 a.m.
on Tuesday, the 14th of December, 1948.

PRESENT

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces,
Commander J. G. Pyke-Nott, R.N.
- The Senior Resident, Cameroons Province,
Mr A. F. B. Bridges.
- The Secretary, Eastern Provinces,
Commander S. E. Johnson, R.N.
- The Resident, Owerri Province,
Mr J. S. Smith.
- The Resident, Rivers Province,
Mr A. T. E. Marsh.
- The Resident, Onitsha Province,
Mr V. K. Johnson.
- The Resident, Calabar Province,
Mr C. J. Mayne.
- The Acting Resident, Ogoja Province,
Mr J. G. Mackenzie.
- The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces,
Mr G. B. G. Chapman.
- The Acting Deputy Director of Medical Services, Eastern
Provinces,
Dr J. H. Pottinger.
- The Deputy Director of Education, Eastern Provinces,
Mr C. T. Quinn-Young.
- The Deputy Director of Agriculture, Eastern Provinces,
Mr M. Park.
- The Acting Deputy Director of Public Works, Eastern
Provinces,
Mr E. Wall, M.C.
- The Acting Senior Crown Counsel, Eastern Provinces,
Mr N. G. Hay.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Member for Urban Areas other than Port Harcourt,
Reverend O. Efiang, O.B.E.
- The First Provincial Member for the Cameroons Province,
Mr J. Manga Williams, O.B.E.
- The Member for Professional, Salaried and Wage-earning
Classes,
Mr E. N. Egbuna.
- The Member for African Commercial Interests,
Mr G. H. H. O'Dwyer.
- The First Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province,
Mr P. E. Chukwurah.
- The First Provincial Member for the Owerri Province,
Mr M. W. Ubani.
- The Provincial Member for the Ogoja Province,
Dr F. A. Ibiam.
- The First Provincial Member for the Calabar Province,
Mr Asuquo Okon.
- The Second Provincial Member for the Cameroons Province,
Galega, Fon of Bali.
- The Second Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province,
Mr C. D. Onyeama.
- The Member for Port Harcourt,
Mr L. R. Potts-Johnson.
- The Second Provincial Member for the Owerri Province,
Mr D. N. Achara.
- The Provincial Member for the Owerri (Rivers) Province,
Mr H. Bowari Brown.
- The Member for Educational Interests,
Mr A. Ikoku.
- The Second Provincial Member for the Calabar Province,
Mr Nyong Essien.

PRAYERS

At the request of the President, the Reverend O. Efiang, O.B.E., the Member for Urban Areas other than Port Harcourt, opened the proceedings of the House with prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 13th of December, 1948, having been printed and circulated to the Members were taken as read and confirmed.

QUESTIONS

NOTE.—Reply to Question No. 2 by the First Provincial Member for the Owerri Province, is not yet ready.

The First Provincial Member for the Owerri Province (Mr M. W. Ubani):

5. To ask the Secretary, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) In view of the continual applications of the people of Ugwanagbo Group, Aba Division for a Railway Halt at Mile 32½ of the Nigerian Eastern Railway which is a spot thickly populated with over fifty villages to be served and is of a high commercial centre, how long more will the building of the Halt be undertaken taking into consideration that His Honour has referred the suitability of this Halt to the General Manager, Nigerian Railway, on the recommendation of the Senior District Officer i/c of Aba Division through the Resident, Owerri Province. The General Manager having stated that consideration may be given to the building of a Halt at the location in question with the return of more normal times?

(b) Now that the Nigerian Railway has started the building of the Mboko Halt which admittedly signifies a gradual return of more normal times would the Department not consider it safer and more reasonable to undertake the building of the Halt at Mile 32½ directly after the building of Mboko Halt?

Answer—

The Secretary, Eastern Provinces:

(a) and (b). The question of a new station at mile 32½ on the Aba-Ogwe section of the Railway is being considered by the General Manager. A final decision cannot be made until certain operational matters, with which it is connected, have been brought to a conclusion.

MOTIONS

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

We will continue the debate on the Regional Estimates of Expenditure.

The Second Provincial Member for the Calabar Province (Mr Nyong Essien):

Your Honour, before speaking on the Motion tabled, Sir, I have a point on which to ask a simple question for clarification. May I refer Your Honour to the statement made by our most respected Financial Secretary when he spoke on his Motion for debates. His last few words were: "It is time now, Sir, for me to sit down and listen". That, at least, Sir, came to me as a surprise. Are we in order to speak on the Estimates which have not been examined and recommended by the Select Committee of this House?

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The Estimates have been in the Members' hands for some time.

The Second Provincial Member for the Calabar Province (Mr Nyong Essien):

So we are in order?

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

Perfectly in order.

The Second Provincial Member for the Calabar Province (Mr Nyong Essien):

Your Honour, I rise as a Representative of my people, and extend our hearty welcome to you. You have taken over the sceptre of Administration in this part of Nigeria. We wish you all the best you wish for yourself. Sir, I am not here to flatter you. You have requested our confidence today and I stand here to say, that such of our confidence you have; we have pledged to you our confidence: to co-operate with you and to serve as much as lies in our power, with a purpose to arrive at our goal, our political and administrative goal of self-government. We welcome you into our midst, and congratulate you for what you have already done. We hope that much more lies in your store for us and we shall be very pleased and happy to embrace the same. We give our confidence, and we shall continue to do so as long as you need it.

I turn to my friends who have been sworn in to help in solving the problem of making men good and true for self-government in Nigeria. I welcome them into the field of Service and extend to them our confidence. I hope that as long as they are on the field with us we shall each expect from the other mutual co-operation, mutual confidence and mutual decorum with one thing in view, that is, sensibility and practice of human rights, justice and fair-play. Humanity must win the day with the field, so as to restore Nigeria to that status which nature has destined for her in the plan of the world. I congratulate the officers who hold office for what they have already done in helping to develop Nigeria on the new plan. In fact, as the years roll by we feel that our Administration was very slow in carrying on the work which would have brought to Nigeria her due share in human attainments.

I am not here to pick holes, Sir, but to speak the whole truth. It is gratifying to note that things in our Administration are now improving; notwithstanding the fact that there are mistakes. In so far as human nature is made of two parts, negative and positive, errors must be committed; but they should be rectified when known. That is tantamount to gentlemanliness, justice, and goodwill in practice. Leaving that, Sir, I now come to a point where I cannot help but to make reference. It is said that charity begins at home. This is a family of servants who are sensible of their great responsibilities, responsibilities to improve our contributions towards the

desired goal of human achievements: self-determination. As such, Sir, I wish to make reference to the opening speech of yesterday morning, made by the Leader of the Unofficial side of this House, the Member for Urban Areas other than Port Harcourt. On that I refer Your Honour to the speech that Member made in this House in the last Budget Session on 19th December, 1947 (*vide* Eastern House of Assembly Debates of December, 1947, pages 29-45). May I draw Your Honour's attention, Sir, to a particular portion of that speech, from the last paragraph on page 29. It reads as follows:—

“ The next question of paramount importance is what part then are the Nigerians playing in the Government of their own country? To comprehend the solution we have first to analyse Government into its component parts. Precisely Government is a political society or partnership and like every partnership established for the sake of some good, real or apparent, Government being the greatest of partnerships presiding over the political or economic destiny of people, and which comprehends all other partnerships should operate for the “ *summum bonum* ” of all concerned. Man is indisputably formed by nature for a state of political society as he is for the simplest bond of family union. Government affords him the opportunity of giving expression to what concerns him—good or bad, expedient or hurtful, just or unjust. The object of Government is therefore the good, unity, prosperity, peace and happiness of the people. Government is the concern of every member of the State, therefore it concerns each of the 22,000,000 or more people of Nigeria.”

“ As it will be unthinkable unwieldy for all concerned to participate as such in the society, it is reasonably resolved that some must rule and others obey, therefore the people should appoint representatives to watch their interest in the Government. These representatives have to do their duty as public servants with the maximum of propriety and decorum, as only by law can the whole process lead to the perfecting of man's nature, for without law and justice man is the worst of all creatures. Firstly he has craft and courage, can furnish himself with arms, and so become a formidable embodiment of armed injustice, the most dreadful and atrocious form of tyrannies. Numerous are the benefits therefore that he conferred on mankind whoever he was, who first taught man to live together in political societies.”

“ A consideration of these facts proves beyond a shadow of doubt that the people of Nigeria by natural right, law, facts, usage or practice form the Government of their own country. This is in accordance with the early Grecian method of appointing Magistrates or Representatives to work the Government.

Therefore those appointed by Colonial Office or its agents are only Government Officials, our own employees."

"That, to me is the only justification why we accept the responsibility of finding the money for the operation of the Government for with this revenue we pay all our employees. I say it with all due deference, from the Governor to the least of officials, European and Africans, that it is our duty to provide and maintain all Social Services. We, the Unofficials, in our capacity as the accredited Representatives of the people—forming the opposition to the officials, are the Government. We have now proved conclusively that Government is rightly vested in the people. It must be confessed that hitherto most people regarded the officials as Government and the people as serfs, hewers of wood and drawers of water."

I wonder, Your Honour, if any Member in this House has ever spoken a greater truth than that. Pages 30-31 continue:—

"Unable to locate their Government"

I emphasize this, Sir:—

"This is the origin or centre of all our political agitations and strifes in Nigeria"

by which he means those organizations constituted on the political fields of Nigeria to fight man's inhumanity to man wherever it may be found. He continued on page 31:—

"I regret that instances are abundant in which some of the officials in the execution of their duty and general comportment do give the impression, with 'Imperialistic Background' that they are the over-lords of the people."

"To check this foreign Government the indigenous people form innumerable unions almost in every town and village. One can honestly sympathise with them for they deem it a patriotic duty divinely imposed upon them to fight, oppose, upset, reform or co-operate with this foreign Government which is so omnipotent in consuming their wealth, obstructing their economic progress and preventing their freedom. This offers suitable soil for many unscrupulous leaders to thrive. With hollow and vaunting patriotism they promise the people "Self-Government", expulsion of every white man from the country as the remedy of all their ills and woes. They are acclaimed heroes and saviours. No wonder that many there are who arrogate to themselves the title of leaders. If you seek to correct the situation you are rated a traitor. The fact is, so long as the Government Officials and Unofficials do not support sane and sober leadership, so long will they consciously or unconsciously sponsor the propagation of imposters in large quantities. Let me name a few of these

political unions—Democratic Party, The Young Democrats, Nigerian Youth Movement, National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons, Calabar Provincial Union, Ibo Union, Ibibio Union, and a host of other unionisms. All forms of lawlessness, political agitations and troubles originate from this confusion, and I unravel this mysterious cause of our social troubles only in the hope of creating better understanding which is so essential for co-operation and progress, so that knowing that we are Government we should no more fight against it, but co-operate with it and constructively criticise it. The people believe that the officials—active partners in their Commonwealth, are exploiting them, the non-officials who are more or less sleeping partners in the society.”

Therefore, Sir, it is the Member for Urban Areas other than Port Harcourt himself, who has caused Political Forces to be organized and armed for the purpose of demanding, as they do right and justice, complete democracy and self-government for Nigeria. After causing declaration of political war in the country, the Urban Area gentleman now turns round and condemns all his soldiers! whereas it was he who caused them to take the field. Is not that the mode of blowing hot and cold with the same breath?

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

On a point of order, may I rise and ask whether this is not imputing improper motives to another Member, Sir, and that the Member will make his point clear.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

I must hold that the Member must confine himself to the subject of the debate, which is the Estimates.

The Second Provincial Member for the Calabar Province (Mr Nyong Essien):

I am subject to Your Honour's calling me to order, but may I just point out something: Sir, in Parliamentary Procedure, which Your Honour knows better than I do, it is laid down that when a Member deals with a subject which is controversial and doubtful, and when he, through misunderstanding or ignorance of genuine truths, misinterprets and misrepresents sincere service, then other Members affected are always given an opportunity of exposing such a situation. I have read many speeches like that in Parliamentary Hansards, but nevertheless, I am subject to Your Honour's ruling.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The Member must realize that there are the Standing Rules and Orders of this House, and I feel the other Members of the House will look to the Chairman to ensure that the Rules are abided by, because it is in that way that the prestige of this House is

maintained, and I am obliged to rule that you must confine yourself by rule 4 of section 18: "A Member must confine his observations to the subject under discussion", and at the moment the subject under discussion is the debate on the Estimates.

The Second Provincial Member for the Calabar Province (Mr Nyong Essien):

Right, Sir. Before passing to another point, may I observe that this is the Budget Session, where a speech on General Administration is allowed. Therefore, I wish to make a few observations on General Administration, with which the point I have raised is connected. I wish to know what Your Honour says about that. It affects the general interests of the whole of Nigeria.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

If the Member will confine himself to his observations on the General Administration well and good, without quoting long extracts of what other Members have said.

The Second Provincial Member for the Calabar Province (Mr Nyong Essien):

Since Your Honour has given me the privilege of making general observations on my points, I shall make some efforts to be brief; and in view of the fact that we are expecting soon to enjoy ourselves in Christmas, I shall leave the rest for another session.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The Member always has the opportunity of bringing it up on motion if he wishes.

The Second Provincial Member for the Calabar Province (Mr Nyong Essien):

That is all right, Sir. I hope I was not out of order.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

I am afraid I ruled that the Member was.

The Second Provincial Member for the Calabar Province (Mr Nyong Essien):

Yes, Sir. I have left it. In view of the opening speech yesterday of the Honourable Member for Urban Areas other than Port Harcourt, and then on page 39 you see "Spurious Leadership" that was very personal—grossly personal! And yesterday too, he preferred charges against the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons. That is the general observation which I would like to make on that Member's speech. The members of the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons are co-operating with the Government; and our Government is unlimited in alertness and is wide awake; we have got a force of policemen, and detectives, who watch and frame up every organization, and every individual who strays out of the ambit of the law. I would be one of the first persons to throw stones

on any man who is creating trouble in this country. But then the Government allows the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons to function and spread in the country, though perhaps it might not be tomorrow after fulfilling its mission. Today, it is carrying on its mission, so much so, Sir, that the whole country supported it, and it was highly honourably received by the Colonial Office in Britain. The Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr Arthur Creech-Jones, took cognizance of, received and unreservedly welcomed its delegation in the Imperial Office at the Metropolis of the British Empire. The Headquarters and the Provinces of the British Isles including Ireland gave their whole-hearted support to the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons delegation. I was one of the delegates.

As a matter of fact, I am not here to mislead Your Honour or this House. If the Secretary of State for the Colonies had gone out of order or had committed any error at all, either administrative or political, the Colonial Office would be involved, because it was there to guide him. When I was in London, in public houses—by public houses I do not refer to shops where drinks are sold—I mean political houses, houses kept for lectures, state affairs and functions where prominent people act as chairman, notable statesmen including Mayors and Members of Parliament. From the capital city of London we went to Manchester, from there to Ireland, from there to Glasgow and Edinburgh, Birmingham and Cardiff, and from there to Liverpool from where we came back home. I can assure you, Sir, if there were anything undesirable in us, it could never have been suppressed. We were advised to return home and co-operate with our Government. That was a noble diplomacy which crowned the delegation with success. The co-operation is going on today until this time. The Colonial Office has not pointed its finger to any case of misbehaviour or a breach of the Law charged to any member of that delegation. Now why should the Government of Nigeria allow the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons to function up to now if it be lawless as alleged by the Urban Area Member in this House. Why not bring up a measure to bear if the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons is not law-abiding. If I commit an offence in Nigeria and the Law fails to restore order it is not Nyong Essien who commits the offence, nor his constituents, but, Your Honour, in that case the Government is the chief criminal. I do not know of any person who has got in his mind an expressed malice against any group of persons, and that man be granted the freedom to live at the expense of the liberty of others. The legislature has got certain instruments in its hands to create and formulate a political or administrative weapon with which to safe-guard public interest in the circumstance.

I am not here to represent the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons. I represent the East and the whole of Nigeria in

and invalids. Collectors or their relatives became victimised by the payer.

(g) Wrong and malicious over-assessment of Income Tax. This has helped to aggravate the grievances of the poor native taxpayers against the members of Tax Assessment Boards. Appeals to the District Officers by the Assessment Boards on behalf of the wrongly assessed often met with failure. The result is the same as (f).

(h) Corrupt action and improper method of investigation by the Police Force in the Leopard areas. That is, they make majority of innocent people to suffer and allow the culprits to go scot free. The culprits thus set free increase the crime and molest those who gave up their names. Others follow their examples in revenge and claim immunity under the cover of insufficient evidence."

REMEDIAL MEASURES

X X X X X

" 2.—CAUSES ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE NATIVE

(a) Child marriage and the resultant revolt of girls of mature age.

(b) Seduction of married women by men folks.

(c) Oppression of the common people by the Elders, Court and Council Members.

(d) Receiving double dowry by parents.

(e) Impoverishment of the common people through improper system of Income Tax assessment.

(f) Claims of refund of dowry for dead wives.

(g) Manufacturers of man-leopard murdering apparatus."

REMEDIAL MEASURES

X X X X X

" We have the honour to be,
Sirs,

Your obedient Servants

(Sgd.) J. Udo-Affia (Sgd.) Eket Inyang-Udo P.

(Sgd.) Utuen Ibok (Sgd.) I. U. Akpabio

(Sgd.) Udo Ekong (Sgd.) U. U. Usen

(Sgd.) Umoren Akpanta (Sgd.) Benjamin Umoh

(Sgd.) J. U. Ekong (Rev.) (Sgd.) T. S. B. Inyang

(Sgd.) E. U. Uyah (Rev.) (Sgd.) Sampson Ayara

Akpabio

Writer and Witness to signatures :—

(Sgd.) O. Bassey

(Sgd.) B. Mbrey-Bassey

} Conference Secretaries."

Mr. U. U. Usen, the author of the confidential report, subscribed to the minutes of that conference, and approved of the whole contents of the same as being true.

The Resident, Owerri Province:

May I submit that the question on Idiong is not relevant to the Budget debates?

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

It is in so far as it is an administrative question.

The Second Provincial Member for the Calabar Province (Mr Nyong Essien):

In all of those causes of leopard murders in that area, Idiong has not been mentioned, by the union amongst whom Mr Usen was. The Ibibio Union has been worthy of Government's confidence and trust for years and years now. Its services have given complete satisfaction in those years to the Government. With such a tradition in view, can the Government now accuse that Union of suppression of such an imaginary confidential fiction? Why did the Ibibio Union Conference exclude Idiong Cult from the list of the causes of the leopard menace? Sir, note Mr Usen! The next point, Sir, is this: in the Legislative Council of March, 1948, at Kaduna, His Excellency, in his speech and address, page 14, paragraph 2, said: "Man leopard" murders continued in the Opobo and Abak Divisions : . . ." All other restrictions have been uplifted from that area. What offence has Idiong committed to deserve complete annihilation from existence and from having any being? Of all the convicts imprisoned on account of the leopard menace, was there a single member of Idiong Cult? There was none. Amongst the convicts sentenced to death and accordingly hanged, was there any Idiong member? There was none. The Court records on the cases testify that Idiong was and shall ever remain innocent in shedding human blood. Why then should Idiong suffer such a gross injustice? Your Honour needs to know, this House needs to know what Idiong is. What is Idiong? Now, Sir, briefly I refer Your Honour to a book by the title of "West African Secret Societies" by Captain F. W. Butt-Thompson:—

"Idiong.—Influencing the Efik, Egba, Ibibio, and other peoples of Nigeria.

x x x x x

"Eveleigh Smith and his companion, the Vice-Consul of the country, reached the outskirts of Impoti, the capital of the Oket District, in safety, but were there attacked by a crowd of natives who desired to prevent their entry into the town" (After both had been wounded in the ensuing fight), "one of their followers, who had been delayed on the road, arrived. Immediately hostilities ceased. There was a great gabble of talk around him, but no weapon raised to do him harm" (The attackers withdrew, and) "the servant explained that he used the same language as the men of the town, the speech called Idiong, and that if he had

arrived sooner no attack would have been made, for all travelling under the protection of an Idiong man might safely enter Impoti."

Amongst other things he puts down that Idiong is a cult and a political society of many years standing, having existed from time immemorial, since mankind came to being. It functions in a way similar to other societies in the world. It is not a society belonging to the Ibibio people only, it belongs to the whole of Nigeria, under some other names according to a people's dialect. As a matter of fact, Sir, if Your Honour were to survey in this House, in so far as the inhabitants of Nigeria or of Calabar Province, or of Calabar proper is concerned, Your Honour will be surprised to find that some leading Members of this House of Assembly are members of and practise Idiong. That power still exists today. Moreover, Your Honour, Europeans too are members of the Idiong society, one of whom is Dr Jeffries. There is nothing shameful in being a member of a universal cult. It will not be a disgrace for me to be a member of Oddfellows. I hold that I become a highly respected personality and know and fulfil my obligations better simply because I am a member of a recognised society. I will not waste your time, Sir, but to stress that this is a matter of a very serious moment. My people are very unjustly treated. I am appealing to Your Honour and this Honourable House to sympathize with my people by restoring the freedom of the Idiong society as has been done to other restrictions. There is no reason why Idiong should still remain under ban. There is not a single legal truth of any offence committed by an Idiong man in that leopard area. I refer again to the spurious confidential. The writer of the confidential, Mr U. U. Usen, was serving on that field in the capacity of a General Secretary of the Ibibio Union. He kept it dark from the people that he was there as a Government spy, or a Government detective also. Because he had nothing in fact to detect, he detected himself by writing and submitting to Government his fantastic and fictitious confidential of unauthentic and illegal nature. A Government Official ought to know his duty. He is an experienced long serviceman in the Government. As such he should not write such a report without causing even one of his expert informants to appear in court. The persons whom he connected with his report should be arrested; they should be charged and tried accordingly. Thereby his allegations might perhaps earn him some justification.

As a General Secretary of Ibibio Union for many years, the reporter knew how to authenticate an official document of the nature of his report. But his report shows no signature or mark of any of the authorities of that officially organised Inquirers into the Menace. Therefore, the Government has no right, legal or otherwise, to make use of such a grossly vague report against the innocent and noble cult of Ibibio people. In the circumstances, Ibibio people do call for a return to them of that false document.

We have been all the time in this House and in the Legislative Council calling for an Independent Commissioner of Inquiry to enquire into this serious incident. It is in a peoples' religion that the peoples' lives are safe. My people are very much provoked and aggrieved, because their religion—Idiong—has been so basely insulted to the detriment of their lives. Their feelings are running high, because of their sense of the injustice which is done to them. They have got to go all the way to other Divisions to consult Idiong there, in order to preserve the lives and health of their household.

Your Honour, I know that my education has uplifted me above the Idiong Society, but I know the feelings of my people. Human nature is everywhere the same! Lastly, Sir, in the Report of Aba Commission of Enquiry, Your Honour will find how important Idiong is. Legislative Council Debates of March, 1947, pages 266-268 disclose the unique position which Idiong holds among Ibibio people.

The mere suspicion that Government was about to suppress and abolish Idiong was one of the causes of Women's Riot in 1929. Your Honour, there is wisdom in the saying: "Let sleeping dogs lie"! I know that wherever any suspicion arises as to disturbance or breach of order a legal remedy, or preventive must be administered. But the law rules that such a remedy or preventive should not be destructive to human lives, as it is in this case. There is no trace of anything illegal against Idiong. Its suppression has caused destruction of the lives of my people. Other restrictions having been removed, I submit that consideration be given to the removal of the ban from the Idiong Society and that the people be set free in their religious worship. Your Honour, I refer to Chief Ntuen Ibok of Opobo. That man, Sir, is a faithful servant of the people and of the Government. He is one of those men, in the Ibibio country, who have obtained Certificates of Honour for their services, satisfactory services rendered by them to the Government. Prior to the Leopard Menace, no doubt had been raised against Chief Ntuen Ibok's ability, loyalty, and character, as a Natural Ruler of the people. Europeans of commercial firms, Government officials, and Missionaries of all denominations in this area, love him as their friend up to this moment. During the menace he was suspected of killing two children. The murderers of those children he arrested and handed over to the Police. That was a proof of his innocence. Nevertheless, and by force of mere suspicion, Chief Ntuen Ibok, a bearer of His Majesty's Certificate of Honour, and one of the most prominent and illustrious Natural Rulers of Ibibio people, was arrested, thrown into and locked up in prison at Calabar, without a charge, trial, conviction, or sentence. Application for his bail was refused; application for him to be fed there from his house was refused! What a servile measure! What a humiliation! What a contempt and disgrace! meted to him who has won the

heart of his people and of the King! The King can do no wrong. Representatives of the King, therefore, should do no wrong. They do know that justice is no respecter of persons and must be administered to all and sundry. "To none will we sell, to none will we delay, to none will deny, right and justice" is a principle which constitutes to and for the British-Nigerian Government a political and administrative bond, unchallenged and undefeated. Where is that ever-living God of right and justice in this case of Chief Ntuen Ibok of Opobo?

On sufferance, Calabar Prison kept Chief Ntuen Ibok; and being unqualified to be nourished with that man's innocence, it opened its gate and discharged him, after his illegal detention in a period of about three long months. In his cottage now, under reproach, he is yearning and gasping for justice! And where is it? The late Adam Ephraim Duke, the ex-Obong and Senior Etubom of Calabar, was treated in a similar manner with the exception of being thrown into gaol. Injustice meted out to the ex-Obong of Calabar was another case of gross injustice in point. How long are we and our Natural Rulers going to remain a prey to the "Lion" injustice under the "Union Jack's" wings which are daily flapping right and justice, order and peace, humanity and liberty into every corner of the Empire including the Colony and Protectorates of Nigeria! Chief Ntuen Ibok of Opobo has been unlawfully arrested and imprisoned without a charge, trial, or conviction; and was discharged at the will and pleasure of the Government, with no legal consideration to the victim. The ex-Obong Adam Ephraim Duke of Calabar too was similarly victimized by being unlawfully deposed by the Government without legally proving any offence against him. That was high-handedness and oppression according to the publication in "The Nigerian Eastern Mail", issue of 24th April, 1937, pages 11 and 15, under the caption of "Official Cancellation of Appointment of Adam Ephraim Duke as Obong of Calabar". That Calabar Natural Ruler was ruined up to the end of his life. He died disgraced in his innocence! Documents embodying what was alleged to be his offence remain to furnish pages of tomorrow's history of Nigerian Administration.

Two of the documents read thus:

" No. Confidential 16/1926
Resident's Office,
Calabar,
2nd July, 1929

Sir,

In accordance with instructions which I have received from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, I have to inform you that until you have explained to my satisfaction and that of His Honour your reasons for failing to be present to pay

your respects to His Excellency the Governor on the occasion of his landing at Calabar on June 30th, your stipend will be in temporary abeyance as from that date, you are suspended from your functions as a Member of the Native Court, and no official recognition will be accorded to you.

I have therefore to request that you will call on me at my office at 9.0 a.m. on Monday next the 5th July, bringing with you your Staff of Office.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) F. P. Lynch,

Acting Resident, Calabar Province.

Obong Adam Ephraim Duke,
Calabar

(u.f.s. through District Officer, Calabar)."

" Conf. 16/26.

Resident's Office,
Calabar.

18th September, 1926.

Sir,

I am directed by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to inform you that His Excellency has approved of the cancellation of your appointment as Obong of Calabar.

2. Your Warrant as a Member of Calabar Native Court is cancelled.

3. Your appointment as a Member of the Calabar Township Board will be cancelled by a Notice in the Government Gazette.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) F. P. Lynch,

Acting Resident, Calabar Province.

Adam Ephraim Duke

u.f.s. through Divisional Officer, Calabar."

A similar fate is now staring at the faces of the ex-Obong's successors, including Chief Ntuen Ibok of Opobo at whose instance my people are invoking and shall continue to invoke universal justice to restore order and human rights. We shall thus continue to hold our claims against the Government for a mere acknowledgement of this inhumanity exercised on our Natural Ruler—Chief Ntuen Ibok of Opobo—Ibibio State.

We are all very very proud of the Union Jack but unless the Union Jack means to us equally what it means to Britain, and unless we enjoy the same privileges, there will never be peace, but war!

Chief Ntuen Ibok and family's Subsidy: Your Honour, Chief Ntuen Ibok of Opobo (Ibibio) is a descendant of a family of note, which from his father to his late brother, William, had rendered conscientious and yeoman services to both the country and the Government. His father and his brother, William in their days received subsidy. That subsidy was stopped or withheld by Government on the family's request, because of dispute in that family over the subsidy. But Chief Ntuen Ibok, as proved by His Majesty's Certificate of Honour to him has excelled his forebears in usefulness, both to the country and the Government. He is qualified to receive subsidy. His family has recommended it. The Resident, Calabar Province, has advised me on this subject. Therefore, I shall not press for it now, until the Resident finishes with me.

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

May I ask, Sir, whether this is relevant to the debate on Estimates?

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

It may be relevant to the debate and may be raised in Select Committee later if it is a question of pay.

The Second Provincial Member for the Calabar Province (Mr Nyong Essien):

Administrative Office Messengers: I am submitting, Sir, that it is a general principle of administration to engage and promote Office Messengers on their merits. Thereby their salaries are subject to regular increments. Nowadays many of our Messengers are educationally qualified for clerical duties and for remunerations on equal scale therefor. In the past Messengers were pupils of standard II; and in their experience in the offices they became efficient clerks. Without disparaging the educational attainments of those past Messengers, some of them have retired from Government Service as Assistant Chief Clerks and Registrars. How much more better service can we not get from our brilliant youths of the present days, who have attained to Standard VI education before they are taken into their respective offices. Many of them have put services of from fifteen to twenty-five years, but with very poor salaries, scanty increments, and no promotions at all. Many of them have families, but have not sufficient means to keep up their families, even though they are working for "pay". What is the real meaning of "Economic Development Plan"? I am submitting, Sir, that those officers who are responsible for the success of Nigerian Civil Service be civil and humane enough to treat Messengers as human beings like themselves. In the absence of the small the great is nowhere!

I refer to the grading of produce. Palm Produce Traders Union members have spoken to me. They told me that they have petitioned Your Honour through His Honour the Resident of Calabar Province. I do not know if their petition arrived there yet. Their complaint is that during the war they had helped to contribute to the "Win the War Fund" by their services, so much so that they were promised that after the war they would be considered. Before the war their casks were weighed, and the exact capacity of each cask was fixed, but now that is not done. Formerly their oil and kernels were bought by measure, but now their produce are bought by weight which they do not understand what it means. I know these complaints are not new here in this House. They have been very old in this House, and I may not refer to Your Honour as a new man here in this House but as old as your predecessors who occupied that chair: because though one man comes, and the other goes, the office remains the same. As such, Sir, I appeal to Your Honour to refer to your office files which are likely to contain the complaints of these Produce Traders, so that their wrongs might be righted. Their consolation lies in the fact that their grievances have been expressed by me to you. Irrespective of the nature of the contents of their petition, Your Honour has received their message from me today. They have no doubt of Your Honour's expressed and active sympathy with them for good.

Your Honour, I feel that the time has been well spent. Your Honour's patience cannot be exhausted in diagnosing the symptoms of political and administrative diseases in your Provinces, with a view to effect a radical cure.

I thank Your Honour for the keen interest you have evinced by granting me your coveted audience. May I stress finally, Sir, that Your Honour's consideration be given to Idiong. I do not want to strike fear into us, but we do not know what might happen! So I am requesting that provision be made to uplift the ban from Idiong because it is an innocent society and Ibibio religion. Thank you, Sir.

The Member for Professional, Salaried and Wage-earning Classes (Mr E. N. Egbuna):

Your Honour, it does appear that Members must realise that we want to get home in time for Christmas. It is my duty of course, Sir, in welcoming Your Honour to this House of Assembly to refer to what Your Honour said regarding the question of mutual confidence. There is no doubt that in this House, at any rate, we have in the past worked together satisfactorily. On the question of confidence, Sir, I can only say that mutual respect has a lot to do with it. We would naturally expect our views expressed in this House, whether right or wrong to receive due and sufficient attention. This we as representatives of our people expect and are

entitled to enjoy. There is sometimes a tendency to assume because a measure is approved by Government because it is thought to be in the interests of the people, such a measure would have the warm reception by the people; that Unofficial Members of this House would welcome it and would refrain from criticising because their criticism would be wrong. This is an important point, to my way of thinking. As I mentioned once before on the Official side there is no doubt we have much expert knowledge. On our side that is the Unofficial side, at any rate, we are making every effort to acquire competence and confidence and are trying to view all these matters in as expert a manner as we can. One has to think in terms of what we are here to discuss, for instance, the so-called Nigerianization of the Service. One has to think in terms of people; people who will be in a position to man not only the Services, but would be willing and able to serve the country in the Houses of Assembly and Legislative Council. We are very young, we are very inexperienced so far as parliamentary practice is concerned but we do expect our views to be taken seriously and not overlooked whatever our shortcomings may be. We want at all times a state of affairs where our views, whether right or wrong are not just ignored or pushed away as being unnecessary.

Yesterday, the Financial Secretary in introducing the Appropriation Bill did mention one point regarding the powers of the Unofficial Members of this House in connection with financial matters. What I suppose he had in mind was what happened last year. We did take a stand, and I think we will continue to take a stand. We know it is impossible for a proper Estimate to be made especially when you have to prepare them long before the time they are due, but as much as possible we would like to know our true financial position when we come to discuss our Estimates and if and when the Unofficial Members think it is necessary to reduce any item, I do not think that by so doing we are casting any slur or doubt on the efficiency of the department concerned. I think that in such a case the only thing that can be done is to satisfy the Unofficial Members that the amount estimated is absolutely necessary for the better and more efficient management of the department itself. I am quite sure that if that advice or that explanation is forthcoming at any rate to the Unofficial Members, they would be willing to make the necessary concession. Such matters can easily be adjusted I am quite sure, as they were last year. During the year many other increases were made and I am certain that the Select Committee on Finance would always sanction an increase whenever it had been explained to them the necessity for making the increase. There is only one point I would like to mention in connection with the Education Department *cum* Public Works Department. That is I think about the year 1946 it was decided that a Women's Training College be established for the Eastern Provinces, and I think at that time the scheme was given

high priority. I do not think we had any difficulty in acquiring land, but since 1946 to the present day it seems that little has been done. It is appalling, Sir, because when one compares the standard of education between the women in the East and the women in the West one finds such a great difference. Two weeks ago I was in a fortunate position to be on the Scholarship Committee and we had to examine applications from all over the country. In regard to the women especially I find there was quite a great difference in the standard from Region to Region.

As Government is willing to give us Women's Training Colleges, let us insist that they should be completed as early as possible. I did take the trouble to find out how things stood in order to be able to apportion blame. I took the trouble, for instance, to speak to the men who were engaged on the building of the Enugu Centre—the builders and carpenters there. They, at any rate, appear to have the sympathy of the Education Department, whose senior officials visit them every now and again and keep on urging them to get on with their work, but they are short of materials, and until you have bricks, cement and timber, you cannot build. The Public Works Department cannot supply any; they are short of material and they say the new House of Assembly will have to be built, but quite seriously I do not think this building is more important than the Women's Training College. We have in the past spoken much about Mass Education. So far we have not been able to produce qualified teachers. From the academic point of view I do not know about others. As the Member said yesterday, we continue to send men to the University College, Ibadan, but we do not seem in the East at any rate to be laying proper emphasis on Women's Education. Girls must be educated now. They are the mothers of the future and on them depend so much. Again, while on that issue, Sir, I think I did hear some time ago some talk about the building of a Queen's College for the East to give secondary facilities to the women. I do not know how far we have gone in that connection but the sooner we get down to producing something real the better for everyone concerned.

There are those of course who flatter themselves by saying we need only mental equipment for the purpose of looking after ourselves, or shouldering our own burdens. Those of us who have the opportunity of watching our men at close quarters know this is far from the truth. At the moment there is a great deal of book learning and cramming for examinations. By experience I have found, Sir, that even when you interview men with qualifications and degrees, I find they are in certain cases worse than those who have only the ordinary School Certificate; their knowledge is not deep enough, and unless we have colleges where they can go, I am afraid we cannot produce sufficient people to man our Services.

Going back, Sir, to Nigerianization, unless I am mistaken by awarding so many scholarships, Government has decided to hasten the Nigerianization process of this country for the purpose of making people assume greater responsibility in the Civil Service. Now, Sir, the great difficulty so far as I am aware, or we have been told, is that there is hardly sufficient room in the British Universities to take all the men who are recommended even if the Nigerian Government is prepared to provide the funds, and I was wondering whether the time has not come where other institutions of learning in other parts of the world should not be used. I do not know much about Canadian, American or New Zealand Universities, but I am quite sure we might be able to arrange with Dominion University or other to send a few people. If we expect to send our children to the United Kingdom, I think it will be hundreds of years before we are able to produce suitable people at all and if the whole of the Nigerianization issue is not going to be a farce, the sooner we commence training our men on the right lines the better. Again, on that issue, we wish to see greater emphasis laid on the technical side. I see there is little provision for Technical Education at the University College, Ibadan. No provisions have as yet been made for training men in subjects like Engineering—not to the extent of enabling them to get up to Senior Service standard. Now, I know for certain that Government would welcome more Africans for that type of profession, and I know that scholarships are being provided, but it would appear that the greatest difficulty is that at the moment the only suitable candidates are in the employ of the Government, the Public Works Department principally, and I have been told, and I have reasons to believe that the Public Works Department is rather reluctant to release their men for the purpose of taking advantage of these overseas training schemes. The reason that is given is that there is such an acute shortage of men who are Engineering or Technical Assistants in this country that they could not be spared to go abroad for a period of two or three years, to acquire the academic knowledge, but also technical experience of workshops in England which would make him as time goes on, a better and more useful citizen to this community than one who has just been left in the same position as he has been, and just hopes that in twelve or more years he would be able to scrape into one of the higher positions. It is on the ability to get candidates suitable for the higher training the whole of the Nigerianization scheme is based. Surely we cannot be expected to pick up a young fellow from the street and send him to the United Kingdom to do Engineering. It would take him ten years to find his feet, but there are very many people in the Service today, young men who have good qualifications, and the Public Works Department should not hamper these people but should release some of them in order to get the benefit of this education. I will be told that some have been recommended, and there is no doubt that the Director

of the Public Works Department has furnished a list of people who, in his view, are suitable for that training, but I do say, Sir, from my own practical experience I know of far more men who were told they were not young enough, although no doubt they would have profited by their experience, but who have not had an opportunity simply because the Public Works Department would not release them. I am not in a position to say the Department is justified in taking this stand but I think there should be another approach to this subject. It is felt by young people who are very keen on technical profession which we are told should be encouraged, that their department would not encourage them as it would not like to see them occupy the Senior Posts in the same department. What applies to the Public Works applies to the Railway.

On the question of technical education in Agriculture, I do know that in the past efforts were made to send some young men abroad to fit them properly and I think it is common knowledge that the first efforts were not very successful, but that should not dissuade the department, from continuing in its efforts of finding suitable Agricultural Officers and giving them the benefit of training abroad.

In that connection we still have the same difficulty regarding the institutions to which they can be sent. Again, we should try not only the British Universities or the British Colleges but we should try the good colleges in New Zealand, Canada and the West Indies, and I think they could always find places for our people.

One word, about Provincial Administration. I feel quite seriously after studying the Estimates, that in the Provincial Administration in so far as the Eastern Provinces are concerned, young men of ability and integrity should be given sufficient encouragement by the granting of accelerated promotions as often as possible. It is one thing to think in terms of Nigerianization and think that only those who go abroad or those who can get good salaries and qualifications are good enough for promotion. It is another thing to make the best of the material which we have at hand. Similarly, if a boy has not got an Honour Degree it should not prevent him from being a good Administrative Officer, given the proper outlook and authority. There is a feeling among the people that among young men in the Service now in spite of the Harragin Award promotions are not quick enough. By creating more intermediate posts such as what I believe are called Office Assistants greater opportunity of having more men promoted from the Junior Service into the Senior Service will be afforded; last year there was provision for such an office in the Estimates, and as far as I am aware the post has not been filled. It was a great surprise to me because when the former holder of that post was promoted I expected some other junior man would be elevated to that post, either in an acting capacity or as the substantial holder. Instead that post

has been left and I hope it is only because no suitable person is available and there is no intention to abandon it. I would advocate that such "buffer" positions be increased to give encouragement to suitable people. Your Honour, I beg to take my seat.

The Second Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province (Mr C. D. Onyeama):

Your Honour, I am afraid I will talk for quite a time because I have a good deal to say, and I do not know what time you propose to adjourn.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

Not till 12.30 p.m.

The Second Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province (Mr C. D. Onyeama):

I will try to say all that I wish to say in that time. Year in and year out Members have come to this House with all types of complaints, and quite often there have been put forward complaints and suggestions: more education; more postal facilities; more interest in agriculture. It is the same year in and year out, but apparently, we are getting so nearer the goal than we were when we started two years ago.

The first point I would like to deal with is one with which I am the least familiar. It is the question of Education. In the Onitsha Province there does not appear to be any action by Native Authorities to provide education on any appreciable scale. At the present we have a system whereby certain Native Authorities assist one or two boys at a time to study in Colleges or Universities. I am of the humble opinion that at the rate these scholarships are being awarded it would take the Province anything up to 500 years to provide suitable education for the mass of the people. I think, Sir, the time has come for a far bolder plan of education to be formulated. Last year at Lagos the Honourable, the Director of Education told us that illiteracy was reduced in the Soviet Union, at the point of the bayonet. It may well be that we might decide that the time had come when the bayonet should be used to drive people into the schools in this country. At the present we have in this country a large number of people who have reached matriculation standard. It may be that their education is not of a very high standard, but I am of the view that it would be of sufficient quality to teach people who did not possess the rudiments of education, and I think, Sir, that the time has come when we should keep an eye on what I believe is taking place in India—that is a system whereby the Minister of Education is empowered to conscript persons between certain ages and who have reached a certain standard of education to teach, and he can allocate them to any schools or institutions of learning he chooses and in that manner get over the difficulty of providing teachers during the

initial stages or providing large scale education. I think that for many years we have been far too content with a very low percentage of literacy. We have been too content and have allowed ourselves to drift along, and I think we should no longer be content with a life of complete complacency. The time has come when we must wage war on illiteracy. Making policies of preparing schemes will not meet the case, I think we require something more imaginative from the department of Education.

I am not satisfied at all with the present state of things in the Onitsha Province. I have been to places where there are no schools worth the name, and I think that this position should be remedied forthwith. I think we have no right to suggest how people should live. I do not think we have any right to set down more buildings and hospitals and make our living comfortable where the mass of our own people are in the grip of a vicious state of illiteracy. I think we should be prepared to play our part. If we do not then we have no right to complain, and I think, Sir, that the Government which has used force to impose taxation should also use force to impose education.

Now, Your Honour, I think I mentioned last year in this very House that this Province is very ill supplied with medical facilities. In the whole of the Enugu Township there is only one ambulance, and we have just been told that this ambulance is only available in cases of accident. I think, Sir, that there are surely many other uses to which an ambulance should be put. An ambulance should be available in any case which requires urgent medical attention. It may be a maternity case, high fever, or anything, and I feel that the people, paying their taxes as they do, are entitled to the best services of the Medical Department. In Onitsha I am told there is no ambulance at all, so that if a person suddenly becomes ill in the Onitsha town, which is about two miles from the hospital, and his illness becomes exceedingly grave in a matter of minutes, the prospects of his recovery are very very poor because there are no means of getting him to the hospital.

Throughout the length and breadth of the Province there is no other hospital except those at Onitsha and Enugu, and the principle of trying to provide a hospital within ten miles of everybody must surely be one which should be aimed at, accompanied by the principle of providing an ambulance in every Native Court Area. In fact, one ambulance would be inadequate, but I think that this is something to start with, and that the Native Authorities and the Regional House should make a point of arranging for ambulances to be at every Native Court centre in these Eastern Provinces. That would go some way towards alleviating the distress to which the people are at present exposed. Tied up with this question of medical facilities is the question of making the people themselves willing to accept

cannot expect every man, woman and child in Nigeria to be fully educated before we get self-government. If we wait for such a day, it will never come, and surely our aid should be to make certain that we have enough people to man a responsible government, and when we do get that far it will be our right to demand self-government. If self-government cannot come, Sir, by peaceful means it will have to come by revolution, even if it means mass bloodshed, and I humbly submit it will be the duty of every Nigerian to fight to the last and use every means at his disposal to obtain self-government.

Your Honour, I have taken far less time than I expected, and I thank you very much.

The Provincial Member for the Owerri (Rivers) Province (Mr H. Bowari Brown):

Your Honour, I would like to speak, but I have quite a lot to say. In view of the time now I will leave my speech till this afternoon.

The Secretary, Eastern Provinces:

I suggest that if Members are waiting for longer time we might adjourn now or in five minutes time, and reassemble earlier this afternoon.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

If it is the wish of Members I propose that we shall adjourn now and resume at 2.30 p.m.

The Secretary, Eastern Provinces:

Might I suggest we resume at 2.15 p.m.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

Are Members agreeable that we resume at 2.15 p.m.? (Aye).

The House will now adjourn.

The House adjourned at 12.15 p.m.

The House resumed at 2.15 p.m.

The Provincial Member for the Owerri (Rivers) Province (Mr H. Bowari Brown):

Your Honour, it originally was not my intention to speak at all on this occasion for certain reasons, especially as am not well. I returned from the Belgian Congo Conference to find a mass of papers awaiting my arrival, amongst them the papers to enable us study more carefully the Estimates we are required to discuss. Some of the papers I received after I left Port Harcourt to come here, so it has been more or less impossible for me to go through them thoroughly. But from the little I have been able to study, and after hearing the speech of our leading Member, I feel compelled to speak.

Your Honour is a stranger to us in the East, nevertheless we have heard of your ability as an Administrator in other parts of the country and there is no reason whatsoever for Your Honour to doubt

that we in the East will be able to co-operate with you, that there will be mutual confidence among us and that there will be cordial relations between us. You will find the East is still the East.

Now, Sir, on the question of the Estimates, one finds it very difficult to actually make a speech on the Budget before the Committee stage, as Members have always insisted upon. We have to make these speeches before we go into Committee, where sometimes we are entirely nonplussed by the mass of figures thrown before us. We have no time to go into them, yet we are required to speak, and perhaps that is the reason why sometimes we find it embarrassing to speak in detail on the Estimates and to discuss some other subjects concerning same. It is because we have not had sufficient time to study the Budget hence these difficulties. I am very pleased, Your Honour, to find that in respect of promises made from time to time, but left unfulfilled by Government, plans are included in the present Estimates for a Telephone connection between Akassa and Port Harcourt. Whether this will just be on paper I cannot tell, but I hope it will be fulfilled.

I am also pleased to observe a new Experimental Farm is considered for the Rivers Province under Agriculture. Where the farm will be situated I do not know, but in any case it is encouraging to find that the Agricultural Department intends to turn their attention to the Rivers Province, which they have hitherto neglected.

I am also thankful for the provision made for the Ogoni Hospital. As I have always mentioned, the Ogoni Division of the Rivers Province is a very progressive one and there is no doubt that if Government would lend the necessary help to the people of that progressive Division, it will later perhaps be one of the best we have in the Rivers Province. I am very pleased the Government has decided to give them a hospital which is essential for the health of the people.

The Sombreiro River Bridge is again voted for but how long it will take the Public Works Department to get this work completed, heaven alone knows. It has been in the Estimates from year to year, and each time we are told that either through lack of material or personnel the work cannot be carried out, but I really hope this time that the work is taken in hand it will be pushed right through and by this time next year we shall have the bridge across the Sombreiro River to Ahoada, because we are expecting also the road through Ahoada to the Brass and Ijaw area.

As regards the mobile floating Dispensary, another of the repeated promises, and the completion of the floating ambulance and the launch for the Medical Officer, I cannot too strongly emphasize the need for the immediate supply of these amenities. The people of this area are really in need of the floating ambulance or Medical Officer's launch or hospitals in their places, however small,

As a Member said this morning, it is often suggested that people do not sufficiently patronise the hospitals, but I think it cuts the other way; it is because the hospitals are not provided that the people have nowhere to go, so I am saying that unless the Government implements its promises as regards the floating Dispensary they must give us even small hospitals with twelve beds at Brass and Bonny and also Okrika and parts of the Ijaw area. Degema has a hospital and Okrika is not very far from Port Harcourt, nevertheless Okrika would also like to have a small hospital for sick members of the population in that area. The Medical Department, Your Honour, I am sorry to say, is not giving us satisfaction in our area. We are in doubt as to whether the Medical Department in Nigeria is a money making department for private patients or a free service possibly by Government for the people. The vote of the Medical Department has always been very heavy and the general public are of the opinion that the Department is intended to serve the country properly, but when it comes to be the practice that even paupers have to pay for treatment in the hospitals or are thrown out, I think it is getting a little too hard for us and I am seriously asking that Government will take steps to investigate the situation which is becoming increasingly grave in the Rivers Province. I think the practice extends all over Nigeria. Although money is voted abundantly annually for the Department that money appears to be going elsewhere. We want something to be done to relieve the situation which is getting too unbearable for us.

I now come to another very vexed question and that is Development. The Development Scheme no doubt is intended to improve our conditions. The British Government, it must be admitted, has been exceedingly slow in the past in regard to the development of their African Colonies and Protectorates. But they have eventually come to realize this and have embarked upon a big development scheme with vast sums of money to redeem the time, and all we are asked is to co-operate with the British Government and see the development going on. That being the case Government should take very little notice of any announcement that is being made in this country with regard to immediate self-government and all the rest of it. We want more and more development, better education for our people; education of the head, the hand and of the heart. We want education that will make our young men and young women respectful to authority and to our leaders, not one that will make them wild and unreliable. Last time I spoke in this House and in the Legislative Council I stressed the need for giving them education of a type that will fit them for the present economic crisis we just now have. Academic qualifications with all the letters of the alphabet after our names alone will not carry us very far and will not take Nigeria quickly enough to the pitch we are looking to. We want education that will enable everybody to be practically independent and self-supporting. If they cannot get clerical appointments they will do something else they have learnt

at school. Agriculture should take a very important part in our school curricula. If we plan to industrialise Nigeria to the extent I have seen in the Belgian Congo, we can then talk about self-government. When I was in the Belgian Congo I observed they have textile factories, they have a brewery where all their beer and mineral waters are produced, they have sugar factories, they have boot and shoe factories. The Bata Shoe Company which takes a lot of money from us here is able to produce in the Belgian Congo 1,000 pairs of rubber shoes each day and also 600 or 800 leather shoes. They employ thousands of Africans. These Africans are not as highly intelligent as we are in Nigeria. They have not the educational advantages we have here, but have been technically trained, and it is a pleasure to see thousands of them on the various machines, working with various tools and manufacturing all of the shoes, etc., that are required in the Congo, etc., etc. I am pleading for that sort of practical education for our people. We want to be thoroughly industrialised. We must be economically independent, socially independent, and then comes other forms of independence. We need to realize the fact that unless we ourselves co-operate with the Government and continually but loyally make our demands for development and more and more development and industrialisation, we shall not be able to go very far in our march towards self-government and independence. There must be co-operation, goodwill and friendliness on both sides to ensure success.

The Fisheries Department is doing some good work today in the Rivers Province, but we still require, Your Honour, some more active attention with regard to the deep sea fishing which has been promised to our people. We are told that the rivers and the creeks have been over fished and the only remedy will be deep sea fishing. Deep sea fishing our people cannot attempt now because we cannot afford to provide the trawlers and the kind of nets that are required for this deep sea fishing. I am asking for the Fisheries Department to be encouraged to import the necessary equipment and the experts to teach our people the more scientific and modern system of fishing which will induce them to abandon the creek and rivers fishing and turn their attention to the sea so that the creeks and rivers area can be left to gradually develop and stock sufficient fish for the people to explore later on. One question, Your Honour, which I am asked to bring before this House is the question of scholarships. My people, the people in my area say that there should be some kind of help given them. There appears to be some sort of discrimination with regard to the giving of scholarships. The people of the Rivers Province have never been lucky enough to be awarded sufficient overseas scholarships. I shall endeavour to find out what is the reason for this. The Selection Committee should take the necessary steps to give us our share of this benefit from the Nigerian Government. We undoubtedly deserve some more consideration. As I am not feeling

well I must stop here and reserve other comments on this point for the Committee stage if possible.

The next subject is the Marine, which is not, of course, part of our Regional Estimates, but we need launches. The District Officers cannot move about, cannot pay regular visits to our outstations without launches. The Resident of the Rivers Province is here and can bear me out. Very often he would like to go across to Degema and other places and for weeks together the Marine Department is unable to supply launches. We have in our Regional Estimates a launch for our District Officer to move about, but these launches are not provided. At the moment there is not a single reliable launch lying in the Marine Dockyard in Port Harcourt, they are all suffering from engine trouble or one thing or the other so that the District Officers cannot move about to do their work. I am asked to bring this to the notice of the House and to insist that provision be made for the officials to travel more frequently to the outstations to their Divisions. On this subject I received a letter yesterday from Odual-Saka Native Authority Council, who are complaining they have not seen their District Officer for months together because no launches are available. At the present there is one Doctor at Degema. He has got to travel all the way down to Brass and Ijaw, down to Bonny and Okrika and for months he cannot go about his duties because there are no launches. We are asking that these mistakes—I do not know what other names to call them myself, should be remedied so that the people should be satisfied, otherwise it means we come here only to talk and talk and go back with promises which are never fulfilled. We see nothing, hence I summoned up the courage to tell the Parliamentary Delegation, when they visited us some time ago, that we hear far too much of Development than we see the actual development. We want to see development, not hear about Development and Development Officers. We want more and more development because on that depends our progress towards the goal of self-government and independence. I am personally very thankful (and I say this on behalf of my people) to the British Government for having woken out of their sleep like a great giant to remedy their past mistakes regarding development work which commenced twenty years ago in Nigeria, as we are still far behind places like the Belgian Congo and that should not be the case. I am appealing to this House that instead of making announcements and perhaps doing things which may discourage the British Government when they are willing to give us help, we alter our attitude and talk less about exploitation. Does a man really exploit you if he takes £1,000 from you and tomorrow is prepared to give you £5,000? Would you call that exploitation? Where are we going to get without the aid of the British Government? It is only by co-operation, by mutual confidence, by appreciation and showing gratitude that we can get what we want. I stand firm on that point. I have always maintained that the British Government, with all its

faults, is not a bad colonizing power. They are very tolerant. They still treat us as little children as it were. Your Honour, I am thankful to the British Government, and I think its officers on the whole do try hard to work in our interests. It is not of course every European in Nigeria today who is really interested in the affairs of Nigeria and the development of Nigeria. Some may come out for other purposes, but there are officers and no doubt the majority of our officers who are determined to see the British policy carried through, and that is to train us towards the goal of self-government and independence. With these we should willingly co-operate and fraternise. Your Honour, I am thankful for the privilege of addressing this House as I have tried to do despite my indisposition.

The First Provincial Member for the Calabar Province (Mr Asuquo Okon):

Your Honour, I associate myself with the previous speakers in welcoming Your Honour to the Eastern Provinces, and on behalf of the Calabar Province I welcome you and wish you many years of useful service amongst us, and pledge to you our co-operation and confidence.

This is a debate on the Estimates, Sir, and we have been told by the Financial Secretary that it is not a proper place for going into details; it is merely a debate on the Estimates, and in my speech I shall endeavour to confine myself to the principles and policy upon which the Estimates have been framed.

The first thing I should like to draw the attention of this House to, Sir, is the procedure on financial matters. I have once before made a point in this House, Sir, that I do not quite agree with the principle that Members of this House have the power only to propose deletions and reductions in the Estimates but are powerless to propose any increases. It may be true, Sir, that this is a unique and world-wide practice, but I do not think that it is an inflexible rule which could not be altered. In the circumstances I shall be very happy if that is considered. Now, the way I see out of the difficult problem of having to come to this House and discuss Estimates that respective Heads of Departments have exercised time and labour to put up is this: that before each respective Head of Department submits his programme of work for any coming year he should hold a sort of discussion and consultation with the Unofficial Members of this House. That will, I think, obviate any quarrel and discussion, because then it will be that any estimate that is submitted for confirmation must have been thoroughly discussed with the Unofficial Members of the House.

On that point, Sir, I would like to stress that we need not only the responsibility that is designed to fit us for self-government, we also want financial responsibility. We want to be given power to dispose of our funds and we should like the power to be given to us. Whether we exercise the power badly or well, it must be

given to us. Freedom of action implies freedom to do well as well as to do badly.

Now, Sir, it is unfortunate that this deliberation has had to precede the meeting of the Select Committee. It was my intention to have asked for information from the Deputy Director of Agriculture on certain points, but unfortunately my intention has been over reached and here we are having to make our speeches before going into Committee.

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

May I rise on a point of explanation, Sir. It is most desirable that the Member should make any point he has and seek information now in his speech. It is by this means that the House can find out what things are required and what is in the minds of the Members for amendment at Committee stage. I should very much regret it if he felt he could not bring up such matters now.

The First Provincial Member for the Calabar Province (Mr Asuquo Okon):

I shall endeavour to bring out these matters that I have in mind here and now.

I am dealing with Agriculture, Sir, and with regard to the Experimental Palm Farm at Abak. I notice, Sir, that in your printed Address you have said that an experimental Palm Oil Farm Research Sub-station is to be established,—I underline the words "is to be established",—near Abak, but according to the Memorandum on the Estimates provision is made for the further establishment—I am underlining the words "further establishment". It appears to me, Sir, that these two statements are rather conflicting, and therefore, Sir, it is difficult for me to say whether the amount provided for in the Estimates is sufficient for this Experimental Farm at Abak or not. That is to say, I do not know whether it was the existing Experimental Farm that was meant, and if it was, whether it is to be further developed.

Still on Agriculture, Sir, I should like to say something about the Rice industry and I would like to know, Sir, what plans are being made for Rice production in the Calabar Province. In other countries, in Sierra Leone, for example, it has been discovered that Mangrove swamps are very suitable sites for Rice cultivation, and certainly, Sir, in the Calabar Province, we have an abundance of Mangrove swamps which I am quite confident could be used for Rice cultivation, and I would like to know, Sir, what plans are being made for the cultivation of the Rice industry in the Province.

I wish to say, Sir, that I am tempted to think that when the Estimates were being compiled due regard was not given to the cultivation of Rice industry, otherwise that development would have been more generously considered. The importance of Agriculture to Nigeria cannot be overestimated, and it is said that it is the chief

concern of Government to improve and fertilize the soil and thus increase the crops. I notice in the Estimates, Sir, that the vote for soil conservation is only £1,000. I think, Sir, that is rather appalling when it is compared with the enormous sum of £1,200 for the provision of temporary buildings. I should have considered that soil conservation is more important than the building and maintenance of these temporary buildings.

A sort of infection seems to have caught this House, in that a few previous speakers have had to quote extracts, and I will crave the indulgence of this House to quote just two short extracts. It is with regard to the question of Personal Emoluments. Most of the Unofficials do complain about the expense and the largeness of the Personal Emoluments that are provided for in the Estimates. Well, I do not know whether at our present stage we can complain about that. It appears you could spoil a good case by claiming too much for it. I am quoting, Sir, from a book written by E. R. Batten:—

Problems of African Administration, volume II on page 99, where he says—

“ Too few Africans have yet been able to obtain an education which fits them to hold posts in the higher grades of Government specialist departments, and although the level of education is rising it is bound to be some time before this lack can be made good. Meanwhile, these posts have to be filled from abroad, mostly from Britain, and the salaries paid are necessarily based on Britain standards. These are much higher than the Colonial Governments can afford to pay for their small revenues if they are to recruit adequate staffs to deal with African problems. But this is not all. Most men, other things being equal, prefer to work in their own country, and to tempt men from Europe it is necessary to pay higher salaries than would be paid for similar work in Britain.”

That is the first quotation, and I quote it to the Unofficials. The next extract, on page 100, I quote to the Officials.

“ This difficulty (*i.e.*, the existence of different scales of pay in Colonial Estimates for European, Asian and African staffs, even in the case of men doing similar work) might be overcome by working out salary scales related to the taxpayers' ability to pay, and applying them to every post regardless of the race of the man who held it. Each post would then be open to the best available man, preference being given to Africans wherever qualifications were equal. These (non-racial) salary scales would be the only charge to Colonial Government revenue, and these alone would appear in the Estimates. Where it was necessary to pay more to obtain men of other races to fill posts for which there were no suitably qualified African applicants, the extra expense might be charged to Colonial Development and Welfare Funds.”

Now, Sir, before I sit down after this short speech, I should like to refer to two other matters, one of which is the reform of the Native Courts, and the other the need for confidence between the Unofficials and the Government.

Your Honour has said in your printed Address, that widespread and considerable reform is necessary in the Native Courts. Most of us agree. I submit, Sir, that so long as our customary laws remain uncodified, so long will each of the Members presiding over the Native Courts have a different conception of what these laws are. I mentioned in this House in the last meeting that each Member of the Native Court is the sole repository of Native Law and Custom. That is working untold hardship in the Native Courts, and it is very very difficult for anyone to get justice as long as this state of affairs remains. My suggestion, Sir, is this. The panel of Members in the Native Court should be done away with. I advocate, Sir, the employment of a permanent Chairman of the Native Court, a permanent Chairman who is educated and has some knowledge of the Law to preside over the Native Courts. Of course he could be assisted by a very small panel which should not be changed monthly as it is at present. I also advocate, Sir, that the Administrative function of the Native Authority should be separated from its law making power, and until this is done there is always a danger of maladministration.

The other point I should like to refer to, Sir, is this question of confidence. I see, Sir, that both in your printed Address and in the speech you made here yesterday morning you referred to the need for confidence, and I also saw, Sir, that in his speech to Legislative Council in August His Excellency mentioned the need for confidence; and as my friend the Member for Salaried and Wage-earning Classes mentioned in his speech, we have on numerous occasions in this House stressed the confidence which ought to exist between both sides of the House. The confidence which I advocate, Sir, should be exemplified in this way: when any matter comes up before this House everybody should vote according to his conscience and not otherwise. The Officials should vote because it is their conscience, and not because some pressure is brought to bear upon them. Everybody should vote according to his conscience.

Resolutions must not be opposed simply because they come from this side of the House, nor must they be opposed merely because they come from the other side of the House. All should work together for the good of this House and for that of the Eastern Provinces.

The Second Provincial Member for the Owerri Province (Mr D. N. Achara):

Your Honour, it seems that everybody who wants to speak must first express a message of welcome for you from the people he represents and, I think, I will have to preface my speech by

extending to you a warm welcome to the Eastern Provinces from my constituencies, the people of the Owerri Province.

Your coming to the Eastern Provinces will be compared to the coming together of a bride and bridegroom whose future happiness depends entirely upon mutual and sympathetic co-operation, patience, love and tolerance. No doubt you may have read in books things, good or bad, which Your Honour's predecessor thought about the people in the Eastern Provinces, but I can assure you that no amount of reading can give you a perfect account of what we really are. For, after all, what you read or hear is another man's impression, picture or value of us. It cannot be the same in all respects as your own personal experience which you are going to gain as you live among us and work for us. By us, I do not mean a handful of Africans, the Unofficial Members of this House, but the millions of people whom we represent. My prayer, Sir, is that as you come to this White Man's Grave—no, no, no, I should not say "White Man's Grave", because science has changed it—such a place does no longer exist—as you come to us—God will give you good health, the greatest gift you will require for the many responsibilities sitting on your shoulders. That He will give you wisdom to solve the many problems which you are to meet almost daily, and equip you with other qualities which a Leader requires. As a teacher by profession, and others connected with the job know too that there is a time when a child, irrespective of what his future is going to be, tends to get out of the control of either his teacher or his parents, and if he is mishandled by an inexperienced teacher or parent the child will be ruined. We do not dismiss the child or ignore him; rather we apply all the methods we learnt in our college days to reform and make him a useful citizen. At this stage in Nigerian history we have many problem children in our country and it is the duty of our Government to use its art in making those who otherwise would have gone astray to become useful men and women.

I do not think that Government is to be left alone in this struggle. I think the Education Department has a big share in this big task of building a very solid foundation upon which subsequent influences will build. Your Honour, I disagree with one of the former speakers who said that we should not associate ourselves with those we term agitators, because after all, whom do we represent? I do not think we represent only those who agree with us. Therefore I suggest that to keep clear of those who oppose us, in my opinion, is not sound because in ordinary life people have opposed us in our village councils, and in fact, in all aspects of life. We do not run away or cease to have anything to do with our opposers. I beg leave, Sir, to refer to the Greatest Teacher the world has ever known. As we read the Bible we cannot help quoting from it because we are Christians. He was violently opposed by the Pharisees and the Sadducees but He went to those who opposed

him, befriended them and spent some time with them. What we are today is the result of His friendly attitude to His enemies and opposers. Last year, Sir, I made this remark that we would gain nothing by antagonising those who called themselves, if you like, Zikists, Members of the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons or other organizations or Unions. Nobody can gainsay, as one of the previous speakers said in the morning, that their aim is the same as the aim of the Nigerian Government—independence for our country; but where we differ is in the method of approach, the method that each intends to use in achieving that aim. I am convinced that our people are very slow to understand, but when once they understand that which their teacher wants to teach them, they compensate him for the time and trouble he has taken. Some years ago, about ten, it would be sheer madness for anyone to venture to ask a Clan Council to raise the Capitation Tax or ask people whose children were not in school to contribute to its maintenance. Today the tide has changed. Native Authorities increase the tax by themselves. In some areas people arrange for an Education Tax. I am sure, Sir, that Your Honour, if you have not received one or two applications to that effect, will soon receive them. In some places people, on their own, have agreed to pay something for their own local education. Sir, I respectfully request Unofficial Members, I am one of them, to search our hearts. It would be wrong, very wrong indeed of me to bring Government in if I happen to fall out with my constituencies or a section of them on matters purely social. It will be wrong for me to say: I am being persecuted because I support the Government. I do not think it will help us.

Sir, it was only during this session that I heard that there were people who had agreed to refuse to accept Government scholarships if they were offered to them. This is a statement which I cannot understand, Sir, that a farmer who wants to cut bush for his crops says he will not accept a present of a machet offered to him. I wonder how he is going to do his work. I visited several Clan Councils this year and in all the people were very unhappy because their sons and daughters who applied for Government scholarships were unable to get them. Following what was said here in this session I respectfully request, Sir, that such scholarships which may be refused in future may be made available to people from the Owerri Province. We shall gladly accept them.

Coming to another point, my people are not happy about the Government attitude to the Owerri Government School. During the war a promise was made to two Government Schools, Owerri Middle School and Edo Middle School, which stopped at Middle IV then, that after the war the two schools would be raised to full secondary schools, that is to be raised to Class VI.

We in the Eastern Provinces received the news then gladly and waited patiently for the time when the promise would be implemented. To our great surprise Edo was raised to Class VI

and nothing was said about Owerri other than that it would be turned into an Elementary Training Centre. Your Honour may have heard about our thirst for education and will understand our disappointment, and the feelings of the parents whose children had to be turned out. My people are convinced that Government would not play with its promises and we are still hopeful that Government must redeem its promise and save those parents from the embarrassment into which they will be thrown if their children were turned out. I have just a question to ask in connection with one other school here and that is a school of many years standing. I mean Duke Town School in Calabar which stops in Class IV. I only want to ask this, to verify, or ascertain whether what I heard was true that an application was made to the Education Department to raise the school to Class VI but the reply was not favourable. I ask that only for information.

Sir, I visited a large section of the Bende District—Ohafia, Abriba, Abam, etc., places where in the old days the value of a man was assessed by how many human heads he had been able to get. The first unpleasant surprise I had was this, before I went there I wrote a letter to a friend of mine and sent it four days before I started; he did not receive it so that when I got there I was not expected. Now, our Resident and the Administrative Officers know how important these parts of the Bende District are. When I reached there stories were told me of how people from that area suffered because of the delay in the despatch of telegrams. Instances were given of telegrams that waited for four, five or six days at Bende until they became useless. Instances were given about what happened when people from that side abroad, trading or working, became ill and telegraphed to their people at home to come. The telegrams were delayed at Bende so that by the time they were received, the people could not meet their sick relations alive. Among their requests, Sir, is that a Post Office should be built at Owuwa Anyanwu to serve Ohafia, Abriba, Abam and Ugbaghara Clan in Afikpo District whose people come to claim their mails, from the Ohafia Postal Agency. Your Honour, Ohafia is far from Uzuakoli, Bende and Afikpo where we have Post Offices. It is thirty-two miles from Uzuakoli, twenty-seven from Aro, twenty-one from Bende and twenty-nine from Afikpo. When we consider these distances it will be seen that their requests need attention.

Then another necessity is hospital. Instances were given of people, men and women, who had injections from medical practitioners. Many of them become ill after a medical practitioner finishes giving injections. Because they have no place to go to, nor a Doctor to attend to them, most of these unfortunate ones die, and the less unfortunate ones lose their teeth. I do not know what might be the stuff that was injected into them that made these men lose their teeth, but that was what I was told. I know those who lose their teeth will find it hard to live during the time of famine when we have to chew a lot of dry food. What they asked for, Sir, was a

hospital. But the most urgent thing to ease the situation is to have two Medical Officers at Umuahia. Umuahia, as you know, is forty-four miles from Ohafia. This means that if there is any urgent case, that person, if he is to live, must try to come all the way to Umuahia to get medical attention. The people believe that if their request for two Medical Officers to be at Umuahia, is granted, one to go and visit the Dispensaries and attend to sick people and the other to be at the station, the number of deaths will not only be reduced, but there will be very very few chances for these medical practitioners who go and give injections, get the money and run away, to go there. There will be very few chances for them to do that.

I was also told of the number of deaths there were this year. I have not the figures here, but the clerk there can give them to me. All I know is that if the population is not to go down by about 10 or 20 per cent, the people in that part need medical attention, Sir.

Another point, Sir, is the question of Agricultural farms. All our brothers and sisters at home know that not everybody who goes to school has the opportunity of becoming a clerk in the Resident's Office or a school teacher. Still what happens today is this. Anybody who goes to school believes that he will get a job, not minding what his educational qualification is. When he fails to get a job in his village he runs to the township. If he has nothing to do he will steal because a man who lives must eat and if he cannot get what he must eat honestly he must get it dishonestly. Therefore the Clan Councils of these places request that the Agricultural Department should think seriously of establishing agricultural farms along the lines of what we have at Asaba where those who have no chance of getting a job may have their training because there in the villages they have land. Those trained can come back and make use of the legacy left to them by their fathers and that is land.

I need not warn people to look after their property because Christmas is coming very soon for, unless they do so, their property is not safe.

Now the question of roads comes up. The Native Authorities of both Bende and Okigwi Districts want the Public Works Department to take over as from next year (1) the road from Umuahia which passes through Uzuakoli to Ohafia. I think I am correct to say that that road has defied all the efforts of the Native Administration to maintain it. One who does not pass through it in the rainy season cannot imagine the suffering of those who have to use it. That road is a disgrace to my Province and to my constituencies. A very big officer, a Government officer, an Englishman sent by the Indian Government to visit the Leper Colony at Uzuakoli because he was interested in the leprosy work which is being done in Nigeria suffered very much last August. His whole itinerary was disorganized because no car

could use that road for about seven days and he was imprisoned, as it were, at the colony. Members of this House can imagine what were his impressions of Nigeria and the Nigerian Government when he was going. To us in that district the matter about road is as important as air is to human beings. We cannot afford to suffer a similar disgrace any longer. (2) In one of our District Meetings at Okigwi we were promised that the short road which connects Umuahia-Uzuakoli-Ohafia road and Okigwi-Afikpo road was to be taken over by the Public Works Department. All that we now ask is for that promise to be redeemed.

Just one more point about roads, Sir. The Federated Clan Councils of Isuochi, Nneato and Umuchieze request the Government to help them to construct a road from Isuochi Native Treasury to the Ishiago railway station. This road is about fourteen miles and, as our people have begun to realize their responsibility, we do not want to ask the Government to do all for us and we sit behind. We are prepared to supply labour. The road will serve people of three Provinces, the Onitsha Province, Ogoja Province and Owerri Province. It is pitiable, Sir, to think of people from Owerri in Awka District returning from places like Calabar, Aba, Port Harcourt and are compelled to do one of these two things, either to stop at Aba, proceed from Aba to Onitsha and then to Awka, or they come to Enugu, then to Onitsha and then to Awka before reaching their villages. Whereas if the road between Ishiago and Isuochi is opened, the distance they will travel will be thirty miles. It will be very economical to the people of those Provinces who have to use it.

Then I come to the most urgent thing for Okigwi District—telephone—the establishment of a telephone in our Post Office at Okigwi. Sir, the people of my district are very unhappy because they feel and I feel like that too, that our progress is not planned for. If the amenities given to people of all the districts were to be produced I am quite certain that Okigwi is going to come last.

Many years ago our warrant chiefs were asked to accept a government school, but they said they wanted walking sticks so that when they moved about people might know they were warrant chiefs. Today when we turned round and asked Government to change its mind and give us the school we could not get what we wanted. The result is that we have no government school in a big district like Okigwi. We have no good roads, and it cannot be attributed to the fact that the population is poor or to the fact that the money realized in the way of taxation is less than that of other districts. It was not our fault, Sir, that the railway lines did not go across the district. The engineers who marked the railroad were to blame. It is not our fault that the district is not situated on the bank of a river so that when the early European explorers came they might visit us as they did Calabar, Onitsha and other places on the riverside.

Okigwi District, Sir, wants a telephone attached to its Post Office by March next year. I know why I say I want a telephone next year. It is because I am empowered by my Unions to say we think it is so necessary that we are prepared to pay for it and if possible I will give a cheque in advance.

I know of a gentleman here at Enugu whose home is seventy miles away and yet he has one connecting his house here with his house in his home town. The need of one man is not as great as that of a District. I say this because we do not want Government to give us any excuse.

There is no reason why a district of the size of Okigwi should not have a telephone, and I repeat we are prepared to pay for it; we want it.

At Okigwi we have Administrative Officers, we have a Medical Officer, we have the Shell Oil people. If a person comes there he will see a number of them—Europeans. We have Missionaries, Protestant and Roman Catholic; we have policemen, we have agriculturists, we have private men and women and all are prepared to patronize the telephone.

Now, Sir, I come to another point, one which concerns Owerri Province or my District very much because whenever we meet it must be raised. We feel very sad when we hear that the Police Training School at Enugu is to be removed to Ikeja, and that the Prison Headquarters here is also to be removed to Lagos. Well, I do not know how far this is true. If it is true I cannot help, and my people cannot help but ask the question: "What is at the back of the Government's mind?" If a man has two sons, the first has his own share in his father's house and the second has his share too. Taking Government to be father, the Western Provinces and the Eastern Provinces as the two sons, what are we to regard as the share of the first son, the Western Provinces, and what is the share of the second son—the people of the Eastern Provinces, if it is true that the Police Training School is to be transferred to Ikeja and the Prison Headquarters to Lagos? We said this morning that Government had no money and yet we want to spend what we have in building new houses. What is the necessity for spending a few thousands of pounds, which can be used in developing our districts, in doing what is unnecessary? What is the use of spending money in building a new Police Training School or new Prison Headquarters at this time when building materials are very difficult to get? At times one is tempted to ask this question, "What is wrong with our Government?" The establishment of the Police Training School here at Enugu has helped many young men and promising lads now in the Force.

The Provincial Member for the Owerri (Rivers) Province (Mr H. Bowari Brown):

Your Honour, I do not know, as a point of order, whether these

matters are relevant. They do not appear to be regional, they are central.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

They are probably linked up to a certain extent in that they are institutions in the Region themselves.

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

Would it be in order to say there is no intention to move the Enugu Police Training School?

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The Secretary (Finance) has risen to explain that there is at the moment no intention whatsoever to transfer the Police Training School.

The Second Provincial Member for the Owerri Province (Mr D. N. Achara):

Thank you very much. I have got to leave what I intended to say about that since my fears are relieved.

Your Honour, in conclusion, Sir, I must appeal to all the Members of this House to think seriously of including all rural areas in our Development Plans. I said this last year and some people laughed, probably because they felt I came from a rural area. Of course I do. We make elaborate plans to enlarge hospitals in this or that township, tar roads, establish radio service for people in big towns, etc., and we forget that those who live in rural areas want to enjoy themselves abundantly. The health of the people in rural areas is important and must be looked after by the Medical Department. Give people in rural areas roads, medical service, schools and other amenities and watch whether they will rush to townships any longer, —I know how my elder brother, about fifty years of age, enjoys sitting down and being driven to Onitsha. It takes him a few hours to do what, fifteen years ago, would take him four days. Others enjoy modern means of transport as well. The rural area people need all these things and if they are to play their parts and play them well, they must have them. I am sure they will be very thankful.

Thank you, Sir, for the opportunity you have given me, and for the patience of this House in listening to me.

The Member for African Commercial Interests (Mr G. H. H. O'Dwyer):

Your Honour, it was not my intention at all to speak at this session, but just to sit down and listen very carefully; but somehow I got inspired this morning by the Second Provincial Member for the Calabar Province, and I think I should get something off my chest as he did.

Reading through your Address I see reference has been made to the Hostels for Merchant Seamen in Calabar, and I notice from the report that the African Seamen's Inn has not proved successful. As

Chairman of the African Seamen's Inn I think the blame for this must be attached to the Social Welfare Officer in Calabar. We have had no official support and the Social Welfare Officer in Calabar has unfortunately paid more attention to the Ship Inn. We are situated on a site off the main road, more or less cut off and outside the township. We have been denied all official assistance. Last year there was a vote for the Welfare of Merchant Seamen; we did not see one penny of that money. We were approached to accept a cheque of £50 from an old United Africa Company Limited Retired Manager and that was gratefully accepted by my Committee as we were badly off for funds. We also had a visit from Messrs J. L. Keith and Ivor Cummings from the Colonial Office, and we were promised a radio set, furniture, etc., but up to the moment we have had nothing.

A suggestion came from the Social Welfare Officer as to whether he could be permitted to allow ex-servicemen to make use of the building. We readily acquiesced and thought that was a good idea to make fuller use of the place. He and two representatives of the Ex-servicemen Union had one or two meetings with us and that, so far as I can remember, was the end of the matter. Well, Sir, I am quite sure that our good friend, the Resident for the Calabar Province, when he gets back may be able to solve this problem.

I would very much like to crave an indulgence if I ask a particular favour from you in connection with the Atimbo Ferry. The Atimbo Ferry connects Ikang, which is a very busy place, where the Roman Catholic Mission have a very good school and where the Merchants have a good trading site and where also we have a Mill—The Akpabuyo Oil Mill—and it also serves to connect the Calabar-Mamfe road. The present Ferry is more or less old fashioned. It takes you three or four hours to take a car across the river and you are fortunate if you are not left on the other side.

This matter came up in the Calabar Provincial Development meeting sometime ago and a suggestion was put forward to Government that a power ferry should be put at our disposal to expedite and facilitate transport. I was told by a Catholic Sister that a Domestic Science mistress had to turn back when she saw the condition of the ferry, she would not run the risk of getting her car on that ferry. It is very risky; and I am quite sure that it would not be asking too much, Sir, if we fail to get a proper motor ferry, to get a landing Barge.

The Labour Department. Sir, we have had heaps of promises now and again; but we do now know what Government policy really is. I know Lagos, at the moment, is very congested with people who have gone there in search for work. Now and again we have boys and girls repatriated. The Commissioner of Labour suggested, I think, about two years ago, that a Labour Exchange Office should be established in Calabar and the sum of £250, I think, was standing in the Estimates for two or three

years. The Resident, Calabar Province, was asked to secure a site. This was secured and that only is all we have heard about it.

These little things put us out, so we do not know the policy of Government; we do not know whether we have not to live in the Eastern Provinces but must have to go to the West for work.

I notice, according to the Estimates and according to the statement made by the Secretary (Finance), that there is to be an additional vote for the Police. However, personally I do feel that the Police have not been too active in the Eastern Provinces. I know quite recently Control Posts have been removed which would give us an extra number of Police. We would like to see as many Policemen in the East as in Lagos, where they have the 666 Squad with a Mobile Traffic Patrol and other such like Units. In the East if you were to miss a bicycle you have just to say goodbye to it and should never expect again to see it. I have been robbed three times but reporting the incidents, on the nights of the occurrence, have been asked to wait till the morning before the Police could attend to my complaint. I was once actually in danger of being stabbed to death, but for presence of mind, courage and a little knowledge of self defence. We should get the protection of the Police. If there are not enough men we should have the Police Force reinforced.

Another Department I would like to mention is the Posts and Telegraphs. One or two Members who have previously spoken mentioned about the unsatisfactory state of things in the Telegraph Department. Telegrams are usually badly delayed. I sent a telegram the other day to arrange for a ferry. It did not arrive in time; as a matter of fact I signed for it myself. Further, the Calabar Post Office is so small; you have a counter where one man is dealing with stamps; postal orders, money orders, etc. The Calabar Chamber of Commerce once made a request to the Surveyor, and an extra man was sent over but after three months he went on leave and no one replaced him; so the position is as bad as it was before. There is provision for a new Post Office in Calabar; but whether, or not, it will be built within the next forty years I cannot say.

The Calabar-Mamfe road. Sir, I will seriously ask that an opportunity be given to Members of this House, especially Members of the Calabar Province, to go across this road to see what progress has been made. At present no opportunity is given to Members. We just read in the papers that the road has reached mile thirty-six, etc., but I think opportunity should be afforded to Members to go and see what progress has been made.

The Public Works Department: Sir, I wish to mention an accident that happened last year and one which happened early this

year in the Oron District. The present bridge is not the type of bridge to take the present type of cars and lorries that ply across it. This Uyo-Oron bridge is a very light bridge which was erected when they developed the old road, and I think it was just more or less to take light traffic, but now a big fleet of heavy lorries run to and from Oron, and I think the Public Works Department should take steps to erect a much larger and superior bridge to save lives of innocent people. I notice the road is being tarred. I wish the Department would speed up the work. Progress under the Development Plan has not been as fast as one expected it would be. The building programmes are very very large, and if we wait for the Public Works Department to do everything, it would be a question of years; and I think the services of local contractors might be used. The question arose once in another House that where African contractors are used supervision must be given by the Department. We quite agree; but what about the other Firms in Lagos which employ the very African contractors but without any Public Works Department supervision? I think if the services of recognised and registered contractors were used our building programmes would go on much faster than they do at the present moment.

We are very pleased to note that the vacancy of Regional Public Relation Officer has been filled, and we have been fortunate to have a Radio Diffusion Service installed in Calabar; but I cannot say it is very satisfactory at the moment, but we hope the appointment of a new officer will get things going very soon.

Your Honour, before I take my seat I take this opportunity, as other previous speakers have done before me, to extend to you a very hearty welcome to the East. The people of the East are very nice indeed and the confidence you desire and the co-operation you require, we shall give you.

I thank you for the patience you have shown in listening to me.

The First Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province (Mr P. E. Chukwurah):

Sir, I would like to speak, but I do not know when we shall be closing, and if the time is too short I should prefer to leave my speech over till the next session.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

We will not adjourn till 4.30 any way, and I am sure it would be the wish of the House to continue so long as you are speaking.

The First Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province (Mr P. E. Chukwurah):

Your Honour, I bring you the welcome from the people of Onitsha Province. We wish you a very happy time with us and we assure you of the co-operation you are asking for. Your predecessor has been with us a long time and has done many things for us that before he left he had earned for himself the title of

"Father of the East" and rightly he deserved that name. He left for us so many other things including law and order. He afforded shelter and supplied water in the rural areas where there were none before. He saw to it that our civil servants were appointed to higher posts, he left to us plans for local government. In Onitsha Division he has established the O.R.A.N.A., Onitsha Rural Area Native Administration. In brief this administration is called "ORANA" and is based on various councils. The District Officer, Mr Guise, has been at the root of the reorganization and he has done a lot to see it through. We started from the villages and tax collection centres to elect representatives to the Group councils. From each of the villages in the Group, a representative is elected to represent it in the Area council. The Area council is higher than the Group council. Groups of villages that have one Court have a Group council. Groups of Courts that have one Treasury have one Area council.

From the Group and Area councils members of "ORANA" are elected by the people and are approved and appointed by the Resident. In "ORANA" we have a Committee composed of twelve men. These men are grouped into sub-committees for Education, Social Services, Works and Finance which were formerly the duties of the District Officer. We collect our taxes, we make rules and regulations, we build our roads, employ our clerks and labourers, give them promotions, terminate their appointments, give them transfers. Every thing is in our hands and we are being directed by the District Officer and the Resident. The District Officer is not the chairman of "ORANA". The Chairman is a member that has been elected by the other members to be chairman of "ORANA". He and two other members sign all documents, even our rules and regulations, on behalf of "ORANA".

Some people say they do not know what this form of Government is going to be, whether it shall be a failure or a success. If we have no measure by which we can say: "this is success" or "this is failure" we cannot be able to tell rightly what is happening. But "ORANA" started on the 1st April this year to function as an administrative machine, and we have collected taxes just once and have increased the revenue by £2,000 for the Division. If this means progress, then we are making progress, and that may mean that this form of local government is a success.

Your Honour may like to know what the attitude of our people is towards "ORANA". Even the man in the street says that it is exactly what he wants. They know their representatives are running the government and the people at the top know they are serving their people. On the top are people elected by their own men because they have confidence in them, and there is nothing to my knowledge that will go to show that "ORANA" will be

a failure. It has shown even in this short space of time, that something new has come to the East. When we started, the Udi, Awgu, Nsukka and Awka Divisions wanted to follow suit. We discussed the methods of reorganization adopted by Mr Guise in Onitsha Division. The people from Awka Division were in agreement with our methods. Their whole desire was that like the people of Onitsha Division they should try out the local government. To our surprise they were abruptly stopped.

In our last Provincial Meeting the matter was brought up again and each of these Divisions pointed out their desire to organize on the lines of "ORANA", and I am putting it to Your Honour that without waiting for July, 1949 or for further discussions on the local government reforms that these people we represent be allowed to carry on. It will save us a lot of trouble; when the people get what they want they will be satisfied. If they do not get what they want they will agitate.

Roads: There are certain roads in the Onitsha Province under Native Administrations that are being taxed by heavy traffic because they are used by lorries that carry produce. The road between Nnewi and Igbo, a distance of about thirty miles and another between Ajali and Umuze in Awka Division and another between Awgu and Enugu *via* the Police Training School, are the roads which my people asked me to point out to Your Honour they would like the Public Works Department to take over. They are unable to maintain these roads. The Native Administrations at the moment in charge of the roads can however share the cost of maintenance with Public Works Department. In Onitsha there is a road which starting from the motor station comes out at Mile 3 on the Owerri Road. It passes through Odoakpu Village. That road carries daily not less than fifty lorries running to and from Owerri, Aba, Oguta, Port Harcourt, etc. Nearly all lorries use that road. I understand application has been made by the Onitsha Native Authority to the Government to take over the maintenance of that road. So far nothing has been done. I do not think there is any road in Onitsha so heavily taxed and I beg to bring it to Your Honour's notice so that something may be done to help the Native Administration.

The Power of the Provincial Meetings: We have a meeting from which we have been elected to this House—the Provincial meeting. The Provincial meeting has only one statutory power and that is the power that makes it an electoral college for this House and nothing more. In some Provinces, members of each Provincial meeting would like to meet and discuss matters affecting their Province with their Resident before coming here so that matters that can be put right at home can be so treated, but a circular which was posted to us some time this year maintained that the Provincial meetings should not be called by the people unless they are going to bear the cost of transport and other allowances.

I shall ask for three things in this connection. The first is that the Residents of the various Provinces should have confidence in their Provincial meetings and they should co-operate with the Members of the Provincial meetings and that they should not be afraid of their Provincial meetings; that they should call Provincial meetings as often as possible. Secondly the Provincial members should be given an allowance for their transport and this should be paid by the Native Administrations. If we keep these men away because they may say a few things we do not like we may be losing the good things they may have to say. I am also asking that the Provincial meetings should have statutory powers apart from electing Members to the House of Assembly. I say this because on several occasions decisions reached at the Provincial meetings are referred back to the Divisional meetings for approval, but it must be borne in mind that the Provincial meeting members were elected from the Divisional councils. I do not think that it is in order that Provincial meetings should go back to a lower House to have their decisions approved.

Medical Practitioners: I do not know whether the Government is aware of the mass exodus of Higher College trained Medical Officers. As far as I know there have been many of them who have left the Civil Service. I remember that in the '30's it was just the same with men in the teaching profession. One can easily remember the mass exodus of teachers. At first we were not concerned with the mass resignation of teachers till we really felt that they might all resign, and only then we listened to their requests. It does not do us any good, in my opinion, to turn a deaf ear to the just requests and demands of these Medical Practitioners. We do not think they would have left the Government Service if they were satisfied with their conditions of service. They are on the worst side of the transaction, in my opinion, so we should do something to make the profession attractive to them.

Mission Hospitals: We have both in Onitsha and Owerri Provinces several Mission hospitals. In fact, and this is the opinion of the people, the Mission hospitals are doing more than the Government hospitals, but the Missions depend entirely on voluntary donations. We know they are finding it difficult to make both ends meet. Some of them, I understand, have made applications to the Government for some grant in order to assist them in their work. I do not think any Member of this House would oppose any grant to these Mission hospitals that have been doing and are still doing, immense work for the people of these Provinces. We have for instance, the Iyieniu C.M.S. hospital which this year is in short of £1,000 to pay its staff. It has appealed to the people for funds. I know of two schools where the children donated £60 and £50 respectively. If school children have been able to do so much for the Mission hospital, could not the Government do something more? It is pitiful I must confess, to see these kindly Missionaries amongst

us, labouring to save our people from disease but running into debt. We have Mission hospitals at Emekuku, Ihiala, Adazi and Nsukka. One can see that between Onitsha and Enugu there is no hospital controlled by the Government. Government has one at Onitsha and one at Enugu and the intervening sixty-seven miles is left for the Mission to cater for without assistance or if given at all is definitely too small.

Cottage Hospitals: We discussed in our Provincial meeting the ways and means of helping our people to have better health. We thought of Cottage hospitals. We are aware that the Government will say there are no staff and no equipment, but we have decided to utilize the services of the private Medical Practitioners. We shall give them loans with which to build hospitals in the various Divisions where medical services are lacking. But we cannot do this without Your Honour's help. We need your approval before granting them the loan to put up the hospitals.

Our intention is that after the buildings and other equipments are put up, the Medical Practitioners shall gradually refund the money, lent out by the Native Administration for the good work. I am therefore asking that when the time comes, and we put in our application for Your Honour's approval of the grant of a loan to our Medical Practitioners Your Honour will kindly help us.

Water Supply for Onitsha: Onitsha has been making a request. We come here each time to talk about water supplies, but we have the River Niger just on one side of the town and the Nupe settlement where one simply digs twenty feet and gets water on the other and yet it has not been possible for almost three years to supply Onitsha with drinking water. In fact, it is doubtful in the minds of the people what the intention of the Government is; whether this is a sort of punishment, but if it is a punishment, what for?

Electricity: I have seen in the Estimates a heavy sum allocated for electricity. Nobody knows when that is coming true in the Eastern Provinces. I could remember that on several occasions at Onitsha I have signed several documents confirming that we need electricity. I hope that if we approve of these Estimates that Onitsha will not be left out in 1949-50 in the supply of electricity.

Lime Industry at Awgu: At Awgu there is a Lime industry. It is carried on by the Native Administration with the help of the Agricultural Department. Not much has been done about this industry according to the members from Awgu on the Onitsha Provincial meeting. They are of the opinion that the Agricultural Department is retreating from the industry—and nobody knows the reason.

Education: Next year, the new Education Policy will come into operation. People think that there are signs today to show that certain schools in Onitsha Province are dismissing their students,

the people are apprehensive of what is going to happen to our boys and girls when these drastic measures are fully applied. We shall expect co-operation from the people but they are not satisfied with this treatment.

Perhaps arrangements are being made now for Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Agencies. We hope that all Voluntary Agencies should have equal deal from the Government. It seems very vague to us what the position of Commercial School is. Are they synonymous with Secondary Schools? Is their syllabus more advanced or the same as that of Secondary Schools? What is the type of staff required to teach in them. Shall they be the same as that required by Secondary Schools?

I think it is good to make clear to the people what is the position of Commercial Schools in this country. I say so because there is a circular from the Cambridge Syndicate pointing out certain schools that could be allowed to take Cambridge School Certificate Examinations but I understand the Commercial Schools would like to take the examination. I learnt that the syllabus for Commercial Schools in England is almost of the same standard if not higher than that of the Cambridge School Certificate. If this is true I should suggest that students who have completed an approved course in the Commercial Schools and are found fit by their schools should be allowed to take the Cambridge School Certificate Examination.

Now the school year has ended and boys from schools, shall be looking for employment. We have had complaints which we do not quite credit, but we shall be on the look out to the effect that boys are refused employment because they attended certain schools in the country. If employment in the Civil Services is not based on efficiency and ability, I do not think we shall expect confidence of the people or that we are seeking that confidence.

There are civil servants in this country and in the Eastern Provinces for that matter, who entered the Service with lower certificate than the Cambridge School Certificate, but who have been in the Service for a long time and have proved themselves efficient and capable, and by private studies have attained a certain standard of education. I understand some at the moment can provide money with which they can do further studies and improve themselves. I am asking, Your Honour, whether Government will not consider such students and give them study leave to study overseas and on their return pick up their appointments. That indeed will help us out of the usual shortage of qualified staffs.

Telecommunication: Lastly, we have spoken about communications for Nsukka. It is useless talking about the same thing every time, but we shall be pleased if something is done for Nsukka, there are no poles and no wires to supply Nsukka

with telephone and telegraph wire; may I suggest that a wireless transmitter be utilized for that Division.

Ogbarus: There is a people who live south of Onitsha on the banks of the river, the Ogbaru people are divided up into several sections. Some of them are in the Warri Province, some in Onitsha, others in Owerri. The people are traders and fishermen. They have one common relationship. These people cannot, and have not been able to get any amenities from the Government or from the Native Administrations to which they belong because they have always been at the extreme ends of the various headquarters and they have been forgotten by almost all the Divisions in which one finds them. These people are asking to have their own Division or be allowed to go into one Division in a Province of their choice.

Native Administration Secondary Schools: Your Honour, there are several Native Administrations in the Onitsha Province that would like to use the Native Administration funds to open Secondary Schools because it has become clear that the existing Secondary Schools cannot take all the boys that want to go in. Some of them have sent out students to be trained as teachers, and in time they will have qualified teachers. They ask that they may be permitted when they apply to use their money in running Secondary Schools. That brings me back to the investments abroad; the people want their investments to be recalled in order that they will be invested in the education of the people. After all, we do not think it means a lot to us to keep our money in New Zealand or in South America, whereas we could use it here at home to improve ourselves and our industries. When we say all these things, we are saying what the people think. Perhaps we are not expressing ourselves forcibly enough as the people would like us to do, but is exactly what is worrying their minds. At Onitsha between the old and new market roads is a dangerous point. Traffic coming to Onitsha or going out from both the old and the new roads meet there. Recently there are policemen on the point to control the traffic, but there are no shades, nor stands, so that every day under the rain or under the sun these policemen are there from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sometimes when I pass there, I would be held up blowing my horn and could find no policemen.

Recently I have learnt to look for them near the shade by a compound where they retreat in order to save themselves from the heat of the sun. I contacted one Assistant Superintendent of Police and asked him whether something could be done to provide comfort for these men. He asked me who I am. I told him. He asked me what I am. I told him, telling him that I am a Member of the Eastern House of Assembly. He told me; "that is not your business, you should not interfere with the police business". I left him quickly so sorry that a member of the public has interfered with the business of the police. I am putting it to Your Honour that the policemen at that point need some shade and a stand. If it is not done accidents must come there sometimes. Investigations

by the police may prove the cause or may not, but I have given you the result of my own investigations.

Your Honour, yesterday I am sorry to say a Member of the Unofficial side made some remarks and some statements. He made some remarks about certain movements in the country, and I am sorry to say, made reference to matter on which a judicial decision is pending, which according to Chapter 18 of the Standing Rules and Orders of this House, page 5, should be called to order.

The Secretary, Eastern Provinces:

On a point of order, may I suggest that the Member should have brought this matter to the attention of the House at the time?

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

I think it would have been more proper for the Member to have arisen on a point of order at the time.

The First Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province (Mr P. E. Chukwurah):

I know that the Members of the House, both Officials and Unofficials were aware of the deviation and either because of amazement or delight none of us have been able to say something.

Coming to the question of co-operation. We really need co-operation. There are people in Nigeria who say Nigeria wants self-government and give a time limit when we should have it. I think it is their opinion to which they are entitled. In my opinion we have the same goal for our aim the only difference between the two schools of thought is the method of approach. It will not be fair in my opinion, for any person to disparage them, or to say that because they have a conviction they should be subjects of contempt.

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

Sir, on a point of order, could it be that we are favoured with a matter which is the subject of judicial inquiry?

The First Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province (Mr P. E. Chukwurah):

The introduction of the local government reforms, starting with Onitsha Division is the beginning of an answer to those people. In my opinion the Government should distribute as soon as possible the pamphlets dealing with the reports of the committee on local government. It would be given the widest publicity. I do not think it is enough for Members of this House to distribute their copies to their constituents. A copy from Your Honour's Secretariat to those movements is a sure mark of co-operation and may be able to do a lot of good. I am saying that reforms in local government should be started right now without waiting for 1949. When the people get what they want they will want another thing, but not what they have got.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The House will now adjourn until 9.30 a.m. tomorrow.

The House adjourned at 4.50 p.m.

The first of these is the

The second is the

The third is the

The fourth is the

The fifth is the

The sixth is the

The seventh is the

The eighth is the

The ninth is the

The tenth is the

Debates in the Eastern House of Assembly

Wednesday, 15th December, 1948

Pursuant to notice the Members of the Eastern House of
Assembly met in the Garrison Hall, Enugu, at
9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, the 15th of December, 1948.

PRESENT

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces,
Commander J. G. Pyke-Nott, R.N.
- The Senior Resident, Cameroons Province,
Mr A. F. B. Bridges.
- The Secretary, Eastern Provinces,
Commander S. E. Johnson, R.N.
- The Resident, Owerri Province,
Mr J. S. Smith.
- The Resident, Rivers Province,
Mr A. T. E. Marsh.
- The Resident, Onitsha Province,
Mr V. K. Johnson.
- The Resident, Calabar Province,
Mr C. J. Mayne.
- The Acting Resident, Ogoja Province,
Mr J. G. Mackenzie.
- The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces,
Mr G. B. G. Chapman.
- The Acting Deputy Director of Medical Services, Eastern
Provinces,
Dr J. H. Pottinger.
- The Deputy Director of Education, Eastern Provinces,
Mr C. T. Quinn-Young.
- The Deputy Director of Agriculture, Eastern Provinces,
Mr M. Park.
- The Acting Deputy Director of Public Works, Eastern
Provinces,
Mr E. Wall, M.C.
- The Acting Senior Crown Counsel, Eastern Provinces,
Mr N. G. Hay.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Member for Urban Areas other than Port Harcourt,
Reverend O. Efiang, O.B.E.
- The First Provincial Member for the Cameroons Province,
Mr J. Manga Williams, O.B.E.
- The Member for Professional, Salaried and Wage-earning
Classes,
Mr E. N. Egbuna.
- The Member for African Commercial Interests,
Mr G. H. H. O'Dwyer.
- The First Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province,
Mr P. E. Chukwurah.
- The First Provincial Member for the Owerri Province,
Mr M. W. Ubani.
- The Provincial Member for the Ogoja Province,
Dr F. A. Ibiam.
- The First Provincial Member for the Calabar Province,
Mr Asuquo Okon.
- The Second Provincial Member for the Cameroons Province,
Galega, Fon of Bali.
- The Second Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province,
Mr C. D. Onyeama.
- The Member for Port Harcourt,
Mr L. R. Potts-Johnson.
- The Second Provincial Member for the Owerri Province,
Mr D. N. Achara.
- The Member for Educational Interests,
Mr A. Ikoku.
- The Second Provincial Member for the Calabar Province,
Mr Nyong Essien.

ABSENT

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Provincial Member for the Owerri (Rivers) Province,
Mr H. Bowari Brown.

PRAYERS

At the request of the President, Mr L. R. Potts-Johnson, the Member for Port Harcourt, opened the proceedings of the House with prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 14th of December, 1948, having been printed and circulated to the Members were taken as read and confirmed.

QUESTIONS

NOTE.—The reply to Question No. 2 by the First Provincial Member for the Owerri Province is not yet ready.

MOTIONS

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

We will continue the debate on the Regional Estimates of Expenditure.

The First Provincial Member for the Owerri Province (Mr M. W. Ubani):

Your Honour, and Honourable Members of the Eastern House of Assembly, I arise to speak on the Second Budget Session of this House which I regard as a great privilege.

Before saying anything, Sir, I wish to register a profound appreciation of the work done by our indefatigable retiring first President of this House, Sir F. Bernard Carr, c.m.g., who has been rightly called the father of the East because of his devotion and interest in the affairs of the Eastern Region.

I think my friends of the Unofficial Members of this House will share the same views with me.

While paying this tribute to the retiring President I must also commend the efforts and co-operation of the Regional Heads of Departments without whose co-operation the work of the retiring President would not have been a great success.

I now turn to Your Honour, Sir, and to welcome you as the new Chief Commissioner for the Eastern Region and to assure you, Sir, that in so far as you are prepared to follow in those good footsteps of your predecessor, you may be rest assured you will enjoy the support and co-operation of the Unofficial Members of this House in particular and the entire Eastern Provinces in general.

Some of the outstanding qualities of your predecessor that earned for him the goodwill of the people of the Eastern Provinces are:—

- (a) his broadmindedness and outlook; and
- (b) his unbiased and non-discriminatory attitude and candour in dealing with the cases of his people black and white alike.

As a new administrative head of this Region, Sir, it will be our duty to study your ways while you will study too, the people among whom you have come to work and in anticipation of mutual understanding for co-operation in those things that affect the destiny of our people, I extend the right hand of fellowship in welcoming you, Sir.

Sir, I wish to make some observations on the achievements and progress made since the last Budget Session of this House in December, 1947, and to contribute my humble suggestions for the new year ahead of us, which I think would be profitable to this Region.

Education: I will start with Education. The passing into law of the new Education Code which will embrace the three Regions of the North, East and West is indeed a great achievement. What remains is the application of the provisions contained in that Code in the interest of the people.

It is the correct and proper application of those details that will give the new Code wide and lasting approval by the people of this country.

Of course my fears are abated when I remember that the new Code has made provision that the work of education will no longer be entrusted in the hands of one Education Officer, but there will be Boards and Committees which will assist in making recommendations to those things we think will benefit our people.

Senior Primary and Junior Primary Schools: During my recent tour of my constituencies the people of Aba and Owerri complained bitterly against the idea of cutting off Infant Classes to Standard II as the Junior Primary and retain only Standards III to VI as Senior Primary. This will take effect as from 1950. The people are not happy about it and are raising serious objections and protest against it. Let us consider their grounds of argument.

(a) That the only two Government Schools in the Owerri Province have lasted the people for many years with high reputation, Aba Government School being established as far back as 1908, forty years ago.

(b) That there is a great demand today for education in so much that at the beginning of every year the number of schools available including the Government schools, Mission and Private schools are not adequate to absorb the number of children of school age. We want more schools at present.

(c) That the idea of Junior and Senior Primary Schools is indeed a welcome but the argument is that those schools especially the Aba and Owerri Government Schools that have been established very long ago and have earned good reputations and confidence of the people should be allowed to run the two sections. But new schools to be opened or those already functioning but are not doing well should be asked to choose between a Junior and Senior Primary Schools.

On the other hand if Aba or Owerri Government School should have only Senior Primary as from 1950, the question is asked: what will become of the children already in the Infants and Standards I and II when it is realized that at present the number of schools available in these towns are not adequate to absorb the number of children of school age each year? There is bound to be a great surplus of children in January, 1950. There is a great demand today for education throughout the country and it is that reason for which we welcome the new Code and it is the application of these principles laid down that we have to watch jealously.

It is an obligation the Education Department owes to the children but if some adequate provision will be made for the absorption of these children without causing inconveniences to all concerned I will have nothing to quarrel about it.

The Domestic Science Centre at Aba for Women: There is great enthusiasm and desire among the people of Aba for the Domestic Science Centre attached to Aba Government School. But the public want more than what it is at present. It has been started and the people are prepared to embrace it. More money should be voted for its development. This will be an achievement for which Aba women—in particular and Owerri Province in general will ever remain grateful to the Deputy Director of Education of this region. Already women in the villages have begun to appreciate its existence and everything that lies within our power should be done to encourage their interests more and more.

Spirit of Awakening: I am happy to report that the spirit of awakening for education can be found everywhere throughout the country; in the villages, in the rural areas and in the Townships—the talk is, “education”.

At Item in Bende Division the people are anxious and are prepared to foot the cost of building a Secondary School. This is visible everywhere and I commend it as a sign of progress. This is the time, Sir, for Government to consider a legislation for Education Tax.

The Government College, Umuahia: I should like to see that more money is voted for this only Government Class VI institution in the East. There are many things to be done to give that College the standard which will be a pride both to the Government and the people. There are many things lacking in the College. We would like to see proper College chapel erected and installation of electric lights in both the students' dormitories and tutors' quarters. At present the electric plant supplies only students' class-rooms and dormitories but no consideration for the tutors' quarters both Europeans and Africans. In fact the supply of electricity at present in the College is not very satisfactory, *e.g.*, sometime this year the College was without electric light for some ten weeks when the big and small plants went out of order. The students during this period were constrained to use bush hurricane lamps and tilley lamps. That was not good enough.

Double-stream College: The public will support the idea of Umuahia Government College becoming a double-stream College in the future. It accommodates about 160 students with five single class-rooms at present. In order to facilitate the ambitions and anxiety of the people for education, the conversion of this College to a double-stream College will be highly appreciated by the people of Owerri Province in particular and the Eastern Provinces in general as it means that the number of students, class-rooms,

dormitories and possibly the staff and every other thing necessary for a successful work will have to be doubled. The College dining hall as it is at present needs improvement. The students pass out of this College and they are the people who will occupy senior posts in the future, and I feel, Sir, the institution where the future leaders of this country are to be trained should be looked after and everything that will influence their lives after their school days should be of the highest quality.

It is essential that in the dining hall there should also be provision for the masters' table and I should wish, Sir, if it is possible, that the dining hall of the Umuhia Government College should be equal as far as possible to the standard of the Oxford and Cambridge College dining halls.

The College Site: The public is complaining against the College site which is at present very grassy, bushy and untidy in appearance. I have been there recently. It is very unsightly and unlike what it used to be in my days during my training in this College. It may require more labourers and more money to be voted too to bring it up-to-date. More money should be given to them. I know better upkeep will require more labour and you must ask for more money for it, but money spent for it is wisely spent.

Award of Scholarships to the College Staff: I am submitting for urgent consideration of award of Government scholarships to the deserving tutors of this College. The need for higher qualifications in education is very urgent and cannot be over-emphasized. I think there are tutors in this College capable enough and well deserving of this consideration. This College is the pride of the Eastern Provinces and everything should be done to safeguard its interests very jealously.

Ibadan University: I register my appreciation also for the founding of Ibadan University, a grand foundation which the Honourable A. Creech Jones, Secretary of State for the Colonies opened in November. I would like, Sir, to see some things which are missing be added. As my friend, the Member for the Salaried and Wage-earning Classes said in his speech, I should support it that engineering is very highly essential in this country. We want many more engineers for our electrical works, water works, mining works, locomotive works, mechanical engineers and even aviation and radio engineers. If we have people who can do these things then we shall make proper developments in this country and I should say the ideal is to include in the curriculum of the University, Engineering.

Also we need to consider our commercial interests. This country abounds in many natural products both mineral and vegetable and we want the kind of University education which will properly qualify and help us to handle our markets. I should therefore say,

Sir, it is reasonable that a commercial course should be considered in the curriculum as quickly as possible.

Medical (Health): Before I say anything I wish to welcome our friend the new Acting Deputy Director of Medical Services for the region, and wish him happiness in his work.

The people of this country badly need more medical facilities. There is great need for more Medical Officers. The number at present is far from being half way adequate. During my recent tour of the Owerri Province, I visited the Hospital at Owerri and found that the Hospital was left without a Medical Officer for about five or six days when the doctor in charge was away on casual leave as a result of bereavement of his father. Who can imagine the condition of the patients during that period!

At Owerri in particular there is the need for two Medical Officers. Owerri is one of the biggest divisions in the Eastern Provinces. It has a very large population. It also requires a Nursing Sister. The number of nurses there at present is very inadequate. You can imagine a single nurse looking after thirty or forty patients during his or her night duties. It is not very pleasing, Sir. The care for the life of the people ought to be very much in the mind of our Government. Also in our hospitals I should recommend that there should be consideration for electric plants now we are not able to afford the installation of electricity through all the important divisions and towns of the country. Owerri and Okigwi badly need one each at present. If we can spend the money from the Native Authority funds who have sufficient reserves, or from the development funds to buy some electric plants so that we could put them into those hospitals to supply light, I think, Sir, it will not do anything but good. It is also the desire of Okigwi Hospital and the same thing at Owerri Hospital, I find that there is no telephone whatsoever to connect the Medical Officer's house with the hospital. I would say it is essential to have a telephone service at the hospital in times of emergency. At Owerri quite a lot of the people live thirty to forty miles away. They all come to the same centre to receive treatment; some women are in labour before they are brought up to the centre every day, probably some of them die on the way. The same is applicable to the five divisions of the Province. We have the main hospitals established at the central headquarters; something should be done for the hinterland. It is when we are able to think about the interest of the lives of these people very far away from the townships and cities that we begin to know we are really acting for the people who badly need attention. At Owerri we would like to have extensions to these hospitals either in the form of maternity wards at places like Mbaise, Nekede, Mbaitoli, Umuneoha and several other important groups where the hospital is very far away. In the Bendè Division at Item, Abiriba and Ohafia I am able to support my friend the Second Provincial Member for the Owerri Province who has also talked about the needs of the people there

for medical facilities. They live thirty to forty miles away from the hospital which is at Umuahia. Extensive dispensary services with maternities attached could be established for these regions and I am sure that it would give the people the impression of what is being done for them in the interests of the lives of the people. We must organize health centres. I do recommend that more money should be voted for these extensions of medical activities. The Native Authorities could also help as I have said before. No nation can rise whose health is very poor, for if your health is poor it directly or indirectly affects the stature, physiques and mentalities of the people. It affects the state of mind, the mentalities of the people, and therefore it is a primary duty, and a secondary one too that the health of the people should be seriously considered.

For practical realization of the activities of the Nigerian medical services I recommend the method adopted by the Egyptian Medical Department as embodied in the book entitled *Have we failed in Nigeria*, pages 125-126 by Dr Miller, the quotation of which I beg your earnest permission, Sir, to read is:

“ When living in Cairo I was deeply impressed with the work being done in the Old Cairo Hospital. Research, surgical and medical work were all of the highest class, but what seemed to me almost more valuable was the Mission steamer on the Nile in which members of the staff took it in turns to travel up and down the river with fully equipped operation table and accessories, dispensary, and everything necessary for visiting a great many villages and dealing with sickness of every sort. There were of course, included young Egyptian and Coptic nurses.”

“ Countless cases of bilhariza and the all-prevalent worm diseases were dealt with, in addition to other cases involving surgery work. Making such journeys was not only of immense value to the town and village inhabitants, but also to the Native staff in training ”.

“ Is there no equivalent to this possible in Nigeria? Could not two or three lorries travel regularly, complete with doctor, nurses, operating table, surgical and medical equipment, along the roads of all the Provinces? And could not district chiefs and village headmen be instructed (better, encouraged!) to act in the same respectful way to the doctor and his entourage as they do to a Resident or District Officer? Patients of all sorts would be rounded up and woe to the village head or other chief who was found conniving at obstacles to the meeting of doctor and patient whether man, woman, or child! Is it not time that such methods should supersede in our villages and towns the miserable quacks of the South, or the religious frauds of the North who give their patients the water to drink in which the ninety-nine names of Allah have been written and soaked? And take a big fee for the treatment! One fancies that such itineration would

soon open up the country to medical and surgical treatment and effect a real trust between Government doctors or nurses and their patients. One fully qualified and able surgeon would be necessary for every journey, and he would find work absorbingly interesting, even fascinating. I know, for I have tried ”.

I think, Sir, there are many ways of practicalising a principle and I think this is one of such that will help Nigeria and the rural areas. The hinterlands will be very much benefited and greatly impressed. I commend it and would stress for early attention towards it.

Roads and other means of Communication: I come next to the Public Works Department, and before doing so also I feel that I should welcome our friend the new Acting Director of Public Works who was sworn in before this august House. Also wish our co-operation will be for him so far as he is prepared to serve our country. The importance of easy means of communication into the country cannot be over-emphasized. Nigeria is a great country and an extensive one at that. Owerri Province is one of the biggest, or one of the most thickly populated spot in the whole continent of Africa. The people live too far apart. The construction of a few main roads to link Headquarters is not enough. We want more roads to go into the hinterland; to open up the commerce; to open up the industry. Our people are still suffering.

Bende Division not adequately provided with roads: There is one section of the Owerri Province in particular which is not enjoying as much as it deserves in this connection, and this is the Bende Division. I believe also my friend the Second Member for the Owerri Province has touched on that and I confirm what he has already said. I visited the hinterland of this Division and took a large interest in seeing the people of Item, Abiriba and Ohafia. Really, Sir, nothing has been done for the people of this area particularly as far as roads are concerned. We have the Umuahia-Uzuakoli-Item road which needs development and I wonder if it has not already been scheduled as a Trunk “ B ” Road of the Eastern Provinces. It is a very important road in the link to the heart of the Province. Following the Item Road through Alayi to Amaekpu-Mkporo to Oso Adda main road, the link joins up with the Calabar Province on one side and that road takes us down to the Cross River where it connects with Afikpo Road. The same road branches off to Ohafia Akwanu, Ndi-Elu-Nkporo to Abiriba-Ohafia main road and connects Arochuku. It also joins the Akeze main road up to Enugu. It has a big traffic. This is a region of palm produce and it is in abundance, but there have not been any means of transport whatsoever and therefore the wealth of the country is being kept behind and cannot be used to its utmost potentialities.

I feel, Sir, that some examination of the needs of the roads in this country should be taken. A very strong survey should be taken of it. I do appreciate that roads have been built but I still stress there is much that remains undone. I should say that the Public Works Department should undertake the construction of such roads and bridges that are very very important after they are properly examined and found that they are needed. They can co-operate with the Native Authorities in the opening up of roads. In this area much of the region is very hilly and roads simply cannot be left to the Native Authorities; it must require the expert knowledge of the Public Works Department and if that could be done and the work and maintenance of the roads left for the Native Authorities then I think something will have been done for the people.

Railway Branch: The construction of the Railway branch starting from Ovim passing through Alayi to Item-Mkporo-Adda to Afikpo and Enugu linking the Cross River is highly essential. This connects Ikom and Obubra to the Cameroons Province. If this is done many things that have been left behind will be found and it will be to the benefit of this country and the Government.

Benefits derivable by construction of these Roads: The area is very rich in palm products. There is a possibility of discovering minerals in that area such as coal and other resources and if the Railway branch is opened it will be an asset to the country. The people themselves have shewn very keen interest in doing these works. They have tried as much as they can and have been able to construct bridges made of palm tree logs which do not last so that they need better construction of these roads and better construction of such bridges. The people of this area are loyal and good tax payers and will like to reap some of the benefits of taxation.

Road Tarring: The people of Owerri Province in general who are, as it were, between the Calabar Province and the Onitsha Province, are very anxious and have asked me to put to this House the good work that has been done by the Public Works Department and work which has been commenced with zeal and much more vigour on the tarring of the Onitsha-Oron road should be hastened up and be completed before the next rainy season sets in.

We have many roads in the Owerri Province which I feel should come under the Development Plan. In the construction of our roads, many have already been constructed but the maintenance of these roads is very essential such roads are the Trunk " B " Roads, *e.g.*, Umuahia-Owerrinta, Bende-Aro; Bende-Oso Adda; Oguta-Ahocada; Oguta-Mgbidi, Orlu-Ihiala; Orlu-Urualla; Owerri-Orlu; Owerri-Umuahia; Umuahia-Bende; Umuahia-Ikot Ekpene; and Umuna-Umuduru. These roads should come next in turn for they are important roads, in fact they are mostly used by both the Administration and the people. These roads should be tarred after the Trunk " A " Roads as their development will be an asset to this country.

Posts and Telegraphs: There is a great demand in all the five Divisions of the Owerri Province for more facilities for Posts and Telegraphs. The telephone service according to what I have observed in Your Honour's speech has been linked up with Orlu which both the Administration and the people are very anxious that the service should be put into operation. In Aba there is a great demand for the building of a bigger and better Post Office. The volume of postal transactions in that centre every day indicates that the present Post Office is inadequate. As for telephones, Aba is a big centre that has not been very much satisfied except in a few Government Offices. The official telephone services have been extended very widely, and that is as it should be for the Aba area, but the professional and other business houses remain without telephones and it is a very big centre for business so the people are all very anxious for the immediate consideration of extensions to the postal facilities and the telephone services. At the important corners of the Township, *e.g.*, the urban areas there should be provision for either sub-stations or postal agencies opened and more public postal boxes erected. The position for Aba is very urgent now than ever. At Owerri there is also an urgent need for telephone services, especially in the hospital. No up-to-date hospital goes without telephone service to connect it with the doctor's house for calls during emergencies. At Abiriba and Ohafia the postal agencies need more encouragement. The postal agents on the other hand do not know under whom they are serving as neither the Government nor the Native Administration appears to be responsible for their welfare. Okigwi Division is under the same category too.

The Nigerian Eastern Railway: I come now to the Nigerian Eastern Railway. This is another vexing problem of the mass of the whole people of the Eastern Provinces. We have not been satisfied in the way or the schedule of time of the running of our trains. Your Honour you can just imagine the inconvenience the passenger will suffer who joins the Down Limited Train, or the Local Train for Aba or Port Harcourt. He should have arrived at Aba probably at 1 or 2 or 4 o'clock in the afternoon but arrives sometimes at 12 o'clock in the night or at times 2 or 3 the following morning. At some stations there are no electric lights and when these poor passengers arrive with their loads, trying to feel their way groping in the darkness it follows that most of their things are taken from them. We do not know whether it is in keeping with that department also, but I feel I should ventilate the feelings of the people in this House that a change in their policy is desirable.

Another point is that our coaches are very dirty; they do not look like coaches that should merit the amount of money that the public pay. We pay money for something which is of value. It is true that we are being conveyed to our destinations but our comfort must not be overlooked.

The engines themselves appear very much worn out and I know that reference will be made to lack of supplies

and machinery from the United Kingdom and the United States of America. All the same I feel I must ask before this House, where are some of the engines that were ordered? We would like to know how these engines have been distributed throughout the country, for the engines that are plying in the Eastern lines here are very disgraceful indeed. People are losing their business and being inconvenienced and suffering discomfort.

We would also like to have catering at important stations. I think it is time this country as a whole should advocate for this. We should have it at important centres such as Port Harcourt, Aba, Umuahia, Uzuakoli and Enugu, all these places should have catering and proper houses built for the accommodation of the passengers waiting for the train to come or whether they come to refresh themselves it is essential. I am not asking too much for I think, Sir, indeed I know that both white and black will agree with me that it is one of the duties of the Railway Company to make such provision.

Taxation: I come next, Sir, to the system of Taxation. It is another vexing problem. It is a vexing problem in my mind in one respect for I know no person who wishes for progress or improvement or development that would hate payment of taxes, although human nature being what it is when we have to pay monies accruing from taxation we should be consulted that we get value for what we pay. But the trouble is in the system of assessment. That system has been described as thoroughly oppressive and unsatisfactory. We are not satisfied with that arbitrary system of assessment. We are prepared to pay taxes; my people agree to pay taxes, but the question is that the system of assessment is faulty. It is faulty in this wise that most assessments are made by imagination. The Tax Assessment clerk sits right in his office or treasury and writes down figures against the names of persons without knowing their capacity for payment.

I remember an old person named Oku Igwe of Item who cannot even afford to pay the ordinary flat rate but was assessed to pay under Schedule II Tax what he cannot afford. He was a very old man who came before me during my visit to Item in Bende Division. I therefore beg to submit strongly, Sir, that that system is very unsatisfactory and we would wish that in future a better system of assessment should be undertaken. The assessment for payment of taxes is not made by the District Officers who are occupied in hearing appeals from those who are dissatisfied. Although we know that appeals must come, they now come in such a number and though we know they must come from a few people who have been wrongly assessed, but when it comes from a large number as in Bende Division where during the time I visited there were about 400 appeals of people who complained of bad assessment, you will see there must be something wrong about that system.

The whole system is causing much trouble and suffering among the people throughout the five Divisions of the Owerri Province. There is no one section that does not complain. In some sections where there are committees appointed these committees are trying to bring in some hundreds of people maliciously for assessment.

Native Authority Councils and Courts: I am happy, Sir, to note with appreciation the efforts of the Unofficial Members of this House under the able guidance of the Secretary, Eastern Provinces, as Chairman in formulating the principles under which our local government is to be reorganized. People of the Eastern Provinces are by nature democratic and that is why the system of Native Administration has not worked satisfactorily among us here. I would, Sir, refer to the section of Your Honour's speech touching the Native Court system and its reform, which reads as follows:—

“ The Native Court system has been under constant review throughout the Region, and measures of reform designed to improve efficiency have taken place. The panels of Court members have in the past been such as to give the individual member little opportunity of learning the practice and procedure of Native Courts, and many members were ill-fitted to dispense the law. Throughout the period under review, and in all Provinces, panels have been reduced to manageable proportions and efforts have been made to secure the most suitable men for such work. It has been anything but easy to effect these reforms, since there is still a widespread belief among the people that, as with the Native Authorities, there must be proper representation by each village on the Native Court panel. A greater degree of continuity in the benches has also been the aim in reform, while in some areas there has been a move to separate the judiciary from the executive. This is a move entirely foreign to the concepts of custom and it is a matter for consideration whether it will, at this juncture, prove to be a success since where the separation has been achieved, there has been some indication of an unhealthy rivalry creeping in between members of the Native Authorities and Councils and Native Courts.”

“ It is evident that the people have much to learn of the true functions of Native Courts and of their proper place in the structure of local government. It is also evident that widespread and considerable reform is both necessary and overdue.”

“ The efficiency and volume of work of the Native Courts during the period under review have shown no marked changes from past performance. Returns show that such reform as has already been achieved has had no marked effect either on the output or quality of the work. The volume of appeals and reviews from Native Court judgments remains the same and the percentage of such cases which are modified or annulled by the higher Courts has shown no decline.”

to formulate principles under which the Native Court system should be reformed in the best interest of the peoples of the Eastern Provinces. From the start it must be defined that Court members are the employees of the Native Authority who can recommend their dismissal or punishment on proof of misbehaviour, to the Resident. By this method the Court member will try to behave well knowing that he has someone on spot watching his actions.

We want uniformity in the system of Native Courts in the Eastern Provinces. A principle must be formulated for the people to follow instead of allowing any group or persons who have an axe to grind in a system to do or choose their own way which if it is a bad system must affect and influence other sister groups adversely with the result that there will be no peace among the people in their systems of local government. There must be a central authority from which the different sections of a group or clan will receive instruction as regards the correct procedure in their local affairs.

Enugu Police Training School: I feel I must also mention, Sir, the feelings of the people of the Eastern Provinces when we hear it is the intention of the Government to remove the Police Training School from Enugu to Ikeja. I am subject to correction, Sir, on this matter and will withhold further discussion to it as I have just received an information here now that Government does not intend to do so. I am satisfied and hope that this assurance will be true.

Conclusion and General Remarks: To conclude these general remarks on the Administration, I feel, Sir, that this has been a year of achievement. I think the Government has worked in co-operation with the people this year better than ever before. Matters of public interest have been discussed by the people and the Government, and during the discussions there has been a great deal of open mindedness and a feeling of friendship. I am giving a few impressions of some of the things I have watched and which have impressed me.

(a) The Nigerianization Commission which was in the interest of the peoples of this country. This would not have been possible if the Government and the people had not been discussing the interests of the people. There is one general policy in that Nigerianization and that is with reference to the Junior Service. We have a section of it; there is reference to Study-leave. I wish, Sir, to bring to the notice of this House that chances should be given to the staff, particularly those who did not have the opportunity of entering into college in their early days. Some entered in Standard VI but they have worked very very hard and maintained their own. I feel, Sir, such meritorious service should be taken into consideration should they ever apply to be given Study-leave. Some Unions are prepared to send their boys to the United Kingdom to study but when they are in employment we feel they cannot be removed from the employment, the department of Government need

their services and if they could be given a chance and their people are prepared to maintain them and when they come back they are still prepared to give their services to the Government, or the local government of the country, I feel we shall be doing justice to the people of the country.

(b) The Commission of Enquiry into the Burutu Disturbances: The enquiry into the disturbances at Burutu is another thing which I do admire.

(c) The elevation of Port Harcourt Township to a local Government Municipality. This is a great development also.

(d) The reorganization which has been contemplated for local government in the Eastern Provinces and

(e) His Excellency's proposal to review the present Constitution.

I feel, Sir, we are really making progress and we should appreciate this side of the work. His Excellency in his speech on the 17th August this year made observations as follows:—

“As Honourable Members are aware it was originally proposed that the New Constitution should remain in force for nine years and should be reviewed at the end of that period, though limited changes might be made at the end of the third and sixth years. Nine years as Lord Milverton said, is not a long time in the history of a country and we are now little more than half way through the first period of three years. The progress already made however, has been in my considered view, so rapid and so sound that I suggest that we might be justified in reviewing our time table, and that we might consider together what changes should be made and whether they should be made earlier than originally intended. I accordingly propose that if it is the wish of this Council and of the country that earlier changes should be made, they should be made they should be introduced not at the end of nine years but in the second three years' period which will start at the beginning of 1950. Before any change is made it is of the utmost importance to allow adequate time for the expression of public opinion, and if the Council agrees I propose, after a period has been allowed for preliminary public discussion, to set up a Select Committee of this Council following the Budget Session next year, to review the whole position and to make recommendations.”

“I do not believe that there are many people, whether within or outside this Council, who in their hearts still have doubts about the honest purpose of British Colonial Policy.”

“If such there be, I trust that this proposal will prove to them that Government is anxious to encourage sound constitutional advance in the way the people wish. Many wise men have spoken or written about self-government. I have long

kept in my mind the words of a United States Secretary of State, Elihu Root, who said this forty-one years ago—

“ ‘ Self-control is the primary discipline on which self-government must depend. And that requires intelligence so that the true relation of things may be perceived, and also the moral qualities which make possible patience, kindly consideration for others and capacity for loyalty to certain ideals. Men must be willing to sacrifice something of their own individual interest for the larger interest of city, state, country: and without that willingness popular Government is impossible ’ .”

“ In all sincerity and friendliness I suggest that this advice is particularly appropriate to Nigeria at this stage in its progress.”

I feel, Sir, that we are gradually getting our friends to listen to the views of the people if they are put up for consideration and not with any prejudice and malice, and we begin to think and realize that Government is prepared to come up to a common platform with the people and go over the present Constitution, I think my people will rest assured that all will be well. Members of this House will agree with me that public opinion in Nigeria today needs to be very well guided. I have said time without number that most of the causes of trouble today in this country is due to much misunderstanding. I know one who stands fast to his own personal convictions is often bound to be misunderstood. Most people feel and know that the only way we can show our loyalty to our country is by accusing our representatives. That is not so,—far from it. What is the good in regarding a person to be guilty before he is judged? Some of our people were elected to go to the London Conference where they met with people from the other parts of the world. I must be frank, and say when I learnt that we should be induced to condemning these Members of ours—our own kith and kin—we should have waited to hear what evil they had done against us and our country, before condemning them.

If they wanted to betray us we must be told. The news goes all over the world. If any representative of his people should become a sort of traitor and should betray the confidence of the people, I should be one of those to condemn him outright, but if that does not exist I should stand by him.

They should be given support and latitude to express their own opinion. They should be unharnessed and should not be dragged along just as we see a truck being dragged along the road. If our representatives deceive us then they are not fit to be representatives of the people and should be removed. Malice, prejudice and dislike should not be allowed to sway our feelings. We must watch the actions of our representatives and build up a case against them before we condemn them. By condemning everybody who is today right and tomorrow is condemned without sufficient reason will

make people become very weak indeed. Freedom should be given to our representatives. Condemn them when they have done wrong, but when they have not erred we should not allow human animosity to overrule us. Many of us have been sharing these blames and I have to ask many of those of us who are representatives of our people to consider this question :

“ Have you in the affairs of your public life expected praise? ”
If you have you will be very much disappointed. Humble me, as I stand here, I was very much frightened when I came from England last year when I was told I went to England to sell Nigeria and Iboland, just because I accepted British Council Short-term Course on local government.

I have to support a criticism on general administration of this country and I am supporting what the Parliamentary Committee has stated during their visit this Spring when they criticised and condemned the Ten Year Development Plan of Nigeria. The extract on this report from the pen of Bill Grieg, a Parliamentary Correspondent writing in the issue of the *Daily Mirror* and reproduced in the *Eastern Nigeria Guardian* issue of 25th August, 1948.

“ Writing in a recent issue of the *Daily Mirror*, Bill Grieg reveals that new action to back up the ‘ Fine gesture ’ of a grant of £120,000,000, has been demanded by Members of Parliament who visited West Africa recently.”

A portion of the report reads :—

“ Men and material, they say must be made available. It must be made plain to the Colonial people that they are not being exploited; that improvement of their lot is the ‘ paramount objective ’ of schemes in which they will be offered full partnership.”

“ The Members of Parliament say also in the Select Committee report issued today: If millions of the Colonial Empire are to be lifted within a reasonable time out of their backward position they must be roused to realize their potentialities and to help themselves.”

“ Britain will benefit from increasing trade and from the growth of new self-government partners in the Commonwealth.”

“ Great explanation have been aroused. They must be fulfilled within a measurable time.”

“ The report is a frank account of the Members of Parliament of the appalling condition in West Africa.”

“ Recommendations: It makes thirty-five major recommendations and declares that a big overhaul of present plans is urgently needed.”

“ Of the Nigerian Ten Year Plan which calls for an expenditure of £55,000,000 the Members of Parliament say:

“ This is not planning: It is merely an aggregate of proposals for spending the money. Even if the plan were carried out overnight, the improvements would be liberally perceptible.”

“ The Members of Parliament found between 22,000,000 and 25,000,000 people being administered by about 2,000 officials.”

“ One Bed for 3,700: The report says: In Nigeria there is one doctor for every 133,000 people, (in Britain there is one for every 250).”

“ Patients have to lie on the floor: There are ten dentists. More than 20,000,000 are living on agricultural subsistence ‘ of a very low order ’.”

“ Malnutrition and disease are widespread.”

“ There are 8,000,000 children under sixteen. Only 66,000 are getting primary education and 10,000 secondary education.”

Gentlemen of this honourable House, I think a criticism like this which does not show any personal animosity, must be accepted by organizations such as the Government because it is in the nature of pointing out something that must be done for the people, for I feel that if they are here as our friends and educators it should be their great pride in the future to turn back and say: “ these are my people and I have led them through ”, just as a teacher will say when he sees his scholar leading a good life elsewhere. In this respect, Sir, I wish to close by repeating the opinion expressed by the Oni of Ife when he returned from England this year, which I think is worthy of note in this connection:—

“ As I leave the United Kingdom today after a three months’ visit, my heart is full of warm affection and profound respect for the British people. The cordial reception accorded me by the Press, the British Council, the officials of the Colonial Office and the members of the public made my stay pleasant and enjoyable, I shall, as long as I live, cherish a happy memory of this visit.”

“ After an extensive tour of the United Kingdom I realize what a debt of gratitude the world owes to Britain. Her veneration of law and order, her adoration of history and tradition, her sense of tolerance and her respect for freedom of the individual combined to make Democracy a reality. In this respect Britain may serve as an example to such countries of Africa as are now struggling towards full nationhood.”

“ Britain’s present economic crisis is the inevitable consequence of the glorious part she played during the last war. But a nation which for more than a year fought alone and thereby saved all mankind from the tyranny of

Hitlerism can be relied upon to save herself from economic difficulties."

"Let me assure the British people that in their struggle they have many friends and sympathisers. Mass illiteracy and widespread disease constitute the major problems confronting my people."

"In Britain there is, now more than ever before, a sincere desire for a new brotherhood—based on mutual esteem, reciprocal goodwill and closer understanding between the British and the Colonial peoples. This new relation convinces me that my people can attain their aspiration within the British Commonwealth of Nations."

I have read these extracts, Sir, to support the idea that if we have fair criticisms that are full of wisdom and are constructive, which will help our country, I am very sure much good will be done by the Powers-that-be to receive these criticisms in good faith as they have done this year, and I am sure by so doing friendship will be the best way for attaining the proper relationship between the two species of mankind. I think it must be the duty of British Officers in this country never to place any obstacles in the way of the people towards their aspirations.

As for our aspirations towards self-government, it is our duty to pursue it at all cost but tactfully, intelligently and be prepared to live up to expectations.

I wish therefore to support my friend the Second Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province in his views as expressed about "self-government" and I feel, Sir, without taking up the time of this House and without mincing words, to support the draft Estimates of Expenditure as presented by the Honourable, Secretary (Finance), and with these few remarks, I thank you gentlemen for your patient hearing and I beg to take my seat.

The First Provincial Member for the Cameroons Province (Mr J. Manga Williams, O.B.E.):

Your Honour, I would like to speak now for I fear that should I delay another of my friends may seize the time and I may not be able to talk about one or two things I want to.

While welcoming Your Honour to our first meeting, we of the British Cameroons under British Mandate wish you the help of God in the performance of Your Honour's duties which cannot be avoided, I feel I must give a small introductory address about the Cameroons under the British Mandate.

Two of us here have been elected by our Provincial Council to represent our country. Our country is not high in education or wealth, but as I am standing here I would not prefer any other country in the world.

In making my introduction I feel I must tell this House as well as Your Honour that before I was born our grandfathers came into contact with the British Government. In those days we had the practice of dealing in slave trade and my grandfather was a slave trader. He sold thousands of them and they were captured by the British Navy and taken to the West Indies and other places and many of them were eventually set free and they became a very good machinery and asset towards the progress of Africa. In those days the traders who came from Glasgow and Bristol and many other places supplied all sorts of manufactured goods. Our kings had plenty of rifles, guns and ammunition of all kinds, but even then they had to ask for the help and protection of the British Government. They were then independent. It went on and on until the time came for European governments to have a permanent settlement in Africa.

Of course before the Germans came we had visits from the British Consuls. I can remember the names of such people that my people had been dealing with, such as Consul Hewett.

I was quite a boy when Consul Hewett visited the Cameroons and Victoria and I personally knew Consul Johnston when he lived at Mondoli Island, I even touched his sword, and in that case I am addressing you in this House from experience and not from hearsay.

When the Germans came in I was still a boy and had no chance of continuing with the English education, so that as I am now standing here I do not claim a full English education. I would therefore not blame myself because I was born not long before the Baptist Mission left and therefore had no chance of acquiring the English language as I should have acquired it.

Not very long the Germans introduced their schools; I did not go very early to these schools, but afterwards I noticed that the interpreters were playing a bad game and I should try to have a bit of German language wherewith I shall be able to defend myself. This corruption that we are talking about is not a new thing and once I asked somebody to tell me when the world was free from corruption and he found it impossible to give such a time. When I catch the illiterate man in his corruption I find the literate man worse in corruption. He knows all the science, all the plans, and he does it in such a fine way that it is very very hard to detect. Where the poor illiterate asks for one penny he asks for 3s or more. I am quite sure, Sir, that Government is doing all it can to protect the victims, but I am sorry to say corruption will never be avoided.

However, I wish to say that I have had an opportunity of dealing with most of the Chief Commissioners because many of them had spent time in the Cameroons before they were promoted to their position of being Chief Commissioners. Although a small boy should not assume the right to call a big man his friend, I can call Sir

Bernard Carr, who has just left us to have been my friend. He spent a long time as District Officer and we worked together in the Cameroons before he climbed up to the position of a Chief Commissioner, and before his time I have been dealing with Chief Commissioners Major Ruxton, Mr Hunt and many others who spent part of their time in the Cameroons. In that case I feel that we have some justification in expressing our appreciation to such Officers who became High Officers and who have been working very hard for our protection and for the progress of our country. We hope we shall still remain grateful to them.

We are here now for another purpose, that is the Budget Estimates and to discuss matters in connection with the expenditure of monies which are provided or should be provided for the benefit of the natives of this country.

At the time of our grandfathers and fathers we needed help and now that we have no arms and weapon of defence and no means of protecting ourselves or ruling ourselves or governing ourselves in the right way, I think we still have the need of the British Government. One might say I am trying to discourage the idea of self-government. That is wrong, but small States in Europe are today making friends with the more powerful governments for their protection, and why should we, who are not yet able to creep much less to stand on our legs should be left alone. I know we are in a state of changes and my wish is that we be not interrupted, but that we be given special training so that even if our small state will become independent, we may still be a buffer state which will be under the protection of the British Government. There are so many propaganda used for our good at one time and may be detrimental in another sense. I have been hearing all the time expressions made that we are hewers of wood and carriers of water. Although I have no chance of getting into contact with any political men, but I have got a kind of conviction in me and I know that from the man who is in the highest position and coming right down to the poorest man who should be the grass cutter, we all have each his value as an important man and plays an important role in our positions. For instance we are now in this hall and we have just in front of us this compound. If we had no grass cutters I do not think we would be able to enjoy this excellent hall. The grass would grow right up to the doors and we should have to be swimming through the dew when coming to this House, so the man who uses his machet and cuts down the grass is important as well and should not be ignored.

We hear in the propaganda much mentioned of "Hewers of Wood" where I am staying now in Enugu, I spent money every morning for buying firewood, and I can well realize that if these people were not bringing in firewood, I would be starving. In using phrases and words at times to help ourselves, we use the same words

to kill ourselves. Had I been a hewer of wood I would have done it willingly and gladly because nature rules everything. When I was a youth I always ran to the pump and drew water for my mother, and I never thought that to be a disgrace and I am sorry to hear other people who think that to be a hewer of wood is to belong to a useless class which should be looked upon as the lowest and worst. This idea is growing in such a way that farmers are ignored, and after the farmers have worked hard and collect their bits of money, lawyers and other professional men come in and take this money from them. After they have enjoyed the products of the farmers they look down upon the farmers as inferior beings. Such are the things I observe with deep consideration.

I have been reading a paper and I noticed that the price of cocoa has grown very high, I am sorry that I have had to remove my old cocoa because I know that growing the new crop will take seven years and by that time I shall not be able to enjoy the price now being offered, but at the same time I feel proud to be a farmer; very very proud. These are the means by which I think I can be independent. On the other hand we talk of freedom. I do not know where freedom exists in this world than the one we are now enjoying. I have been tracing history. Out of the little money that you are giving me I always spend in buying books and I have got volumes from Foyles Ltd., and I know no time in the world when man enjoyed life in history without being governed. Even in the primitive days the people were living as they thought good, but they had governors; they had people who told them that such and such a thing was good, and others not and in that case if we are privileged to have Europeans to come to our country and teach us in the way of governing ourselves I think we should appreciate it and not just take it as unnatural or as something dangerous which had not happened before.

I cannot in any way describe the dress of my great grandfathers and what they were using. I have not seen books when we on the coast first came in contact with the Europeans and started using dressing. They had sufficient food, drink, clothing. The climate itself was sufficient for their clothing, they had all of their forest products to build their houses and so they had actually no need for money.

If I take a bit of paper and start from my shoes up to my shoulders I find that without a large sum of money I would not put up a suitable appearance for this House, and after one has got the money he works his estimates to guide him in the expenditure of it.

At this time we should sit together and discuss matters in connection with the administration of our country and how much is to be spent. In that case we want money, and should sensibly use it but not extravagantly, so that the coming generation may see what we have done for them. I therefore wish just to bring this as a petition to all of our Unofficial Members and also to our European

Members that the common way of using this phrase of "hewers of wood and drawers of water" is not altogether sensible. The people ought to know that they have got to get back to their land to get their living if they really mean to be independent. I will now start with a few things that are essential for our discussion. We have been talking about education. As I have told you we are still illiterate and backward and I hope we shall think of our own progress. We are not slaves and wish to remain free. The Cameroons under British Mandate is a free country. We do not want invaders to invade us by land or by sea.

Going into history I find that people in the ancient days thought they were the only people. Many of the countries created great defences and thought there would be no fall of their kingdoms, but where are they today? And though we are existing today it is certain that in some days to come we shall disappear and others will take our places. In that case we should not rely on ourselves, but we must always be relying on God's own providence. I here, while representing my people wish to tell you that I am not a racer because I remember in reading newspapers I find there is a board at the Olympic Games on which is written "The important thing in these Games is not in winning, but in taking part".

The essential thing in life is not in conquering but fighting well. As far as education is concerned I need not complain that the Cameroons have been overlooked. At the present moment we have the Cameroons Development Corporation and we have been promised that they have to contribute towards our progress in education. I am not here to defend them because I am a member of that corporation, but at the same time I should like still to be a member there to watch whether they are going to carry out their obligations as stated by His Excellency when this corporation was proposed. I think they have started, and as a member of that corporation I should say that they are prepared to contribute as much as they can, towards the progress of education in the Cameroons.

I know that the Government are also doing their part, and up to now I do not think we have sufficient students to justify the erection of a college in the Cameroons, still more a university, but we think that as the progress of the children and students and the output of these scholars increases we really believe that in time to come we shall be able to have higher schools and colleges. I really feel that we have not yet been forgotten or neglected, but that things are coming gradually according to the conditions. The Missions and the Native Administrations are also doing their part. It is natural increase, but some people just wish to get everything in one day, but I do not agree with premature growth. I like things to be well grounded. When I was a boy in school we had some friends who used to learn very quickly, but just after school they forgot everything. There were also a few who used to find it very difficult to grasp

what they were taught, but when they got hold of it they used to retain them firmly and never forgot, I think it is good for us to get things gradually; I do not mean too slowly, but I mean gradually so that when we grasp at things we may be able to grasp them tightly. I know that Domestic Science Centres are being built and I am sure with the help of those Voluntary Agencies, which are the Missions—we have the Basel Mission, the Roman Catholic Mission and the Baptist Mission and all of them are doing many things for us, I therefore have great hopes, that before long we shall be given what we want. The getting of a thing you want is not the thing; the receiving of the thing and the retaining and the good use to which you put it is what matters, so there are three things, the receiving, the retention and the making of good use. I do hope and pray that when I go to my happy home I shall be able to tell my grandfathers and fathers that the people I have left behind are receiving the things in the right way; retaining them and at the same time are prepared to make good use of them.

Now I have explained to you our conditions of education which I need not emphasize too long, I will now come to those things to which I wish to draw the attention of Your Honour, and one is transport between Nigeria and the Cameroons. During the war we have been complaining about the sea transport up to now, I am a man of the sea; I do not care much about driving cars on land to come to Enugu. I was born on the coast and I am a bit ashamed to tell you about our Native Customs of the seamen, which I think are not bad. I hope our people will not be angry with me if I expose one of our Native Customs. In our country when a seaman was born in the olden days they wrapped the navel-string and after birth and after some ceremonies deposit them into the sea. I am interested in sea business and I would like to have launches or ships running between Cameroons and Nigeria. It is very essential and it will help our country to be connected with Nigeria and to have regular transport for our products as groundnuts and potatoes and many others to Nigeria, as well as importing many things which are not in the Cameroons. In addition, lorries are very expensive in running, and one day when the big man in the world becomes mad there will be no chance of having sufficient petrol and motor parts to run our lorries. In that case I think sea transport should not be ignored because we are having most of our supplies from the coast and many of our movements depend on ships. Up to now we have not been able to get sufficient transport. The S.U.M.C.O. Co. promised us regular transport, but afterwards I found in discussing the matter with that company, they complained that at times they are not having sufficient inducement and so on; but I cannot say why they complained of insufficient passengers. In that case we are still suffering. I remember last year when I returned from the meeting I had to spend nearly two weeks at Calabar waiting for a ship. Previous speakers have mentioned the Posts and Telegraphs Department and for the Cameroons I wish to say we want

more telephone services. Apart from Tiko, Victoria and Buea there is no trunk telephone service. We cannot call a man from Kumba for a talk with him, or Mamfe and even Bamenda. I think we should have more telephone services to enable me to talk to my friend the Fon of Bali when necessary.

I come now to Victoria. The conditions of development of that place is very unsatisfactory. I was born in that place; I know the original conditions of Victoria, and I know the hard work that has brought Victoria to the present conditions which are now enjoyable. I could take you round Victoria and show you places where there were ponds and lakes; you would never believe me and would only think I was trying to deceive you. I could show you places where we had high hills that have been cut down and levelled; you would not believe me, but I am talking conscientiously and with truth. Now the town of Victoria is suffering from accommodation. There are so many friends in Nigeria who may like to visit Victoria, but I am sure if they come they will not have houses to live. The first thing, we have swamp land which is at the back of our slaughter house, running to the back of the Government School. This swamp land is not so bad and could be easily reclaimed, of which we have been complaining long ago, but no steps have been taken in reclaiming that land for building of good houses which might encourage friends coming and living there for a few days. When I think of the housing condition at Victoria I used to be very ashamed after arriving at Calabar and in many places in Nigeria in seeing their nice houses. I am not here to praise Victoria but I wish something could be done to make that place become a better and beautiful place, a place which will be more comfortable and healthier for its people. You cannot build without land and the second thing is that we are not allowed to have land because Government makes no effort in reclaiming these areas and would not let the few plots remaining. Certainly there have been small portions of lands which are nobody's land and there have been so many applications lying in our District Office which are not attended to. I myself have been trying to get two plots of land; I have applied for many years, five or seven years, and there are so many other applications for land; nothing is being done about them simply because they do not like us to occupy these small bits of land, and they say they would be useful for public purposes and so on; we need not wait for Government to build their mansions before we can improve our country. We have to do our part in the improvement of our country and small places like Victoria near the sea. I do not see why we are not allowed to use these small bits of land and build a few comfortable houses which are so much needed in our country. For these reasons I feel that this matter should not be ignored; it should be brought before the House and before Your Honour our Chief Commissioner who perhaps one day will have to go to Victoria

and if you are going round to see the places you will see our needs for good houses. Further, we talk about land again. The difficulty is that the Government have taken away all of the land which is now under the Cameroons Development Corporation. They had been compelled to make reservations and we claim these reservations as our lands; as our private property and we do not think it right that this land should be interfered with and to say they must be called communal land and the occupants on such lands should have no right to use them as they think fit.

It is one of the burning questions among the natives. It is, of course, very wise of Government to place these lands under the control of the Governor; that is very wise because not everybody is strong enough to know that land is a man's only inheritance in life. After these reservations have been made we have no hopes in extending the land to any other places where reserves have not been made. I think if I am right, that the people in Nigeria have not been given reserves, but they still have extensive land, but in the Cameroons we have not been allowed to use our lands and we shall never feel happy if these lands are not allowed to give us our help and maintenance, but should be taken from us and we are told: "they are communal lands and that one is not allowed to use them in a way one may find beneficial". On the other hand, if Government should rule that nobody is allowed to sell lands that are not freehold properties to non-natives I would agree and be glad to see that they be strictly stopped from doing so. These are the control I wish to encourage and recommend that if a man finds somebody who will be a tenant and he knows that by letting this land he will have something to help himself, I do not think he should be prevented from doing so. Of course our neighbours on the other side of the French Cameroons are given full rights over their lands. If I have sufficient money to run over to the French territory I can have any amount of land I want and the Government is not going to stop me from purchasing and using the land, and such are the things I think a control must be made, but at the same time the people must feel and know that the land is their only inheritance, for we are farmers, and no traders we owe our entire existence on lands. I am speaking of the difficulties of Victoria again, and it is obvious that the place is subject to heavy rains, as you know the sanitary condition is very appalling because during the rains we usually have the place flooded and though we continuously ask for improvements we see no signs of improvement.

Drains should be built to get the water running out into the sea and it is a very easy job for such a small place to be given drains, but although provisions are being made year after year in our Estimates we cannot get these drains made; nothing is being built but everything is being left as it was. I shall be very grateful to the Public Works Department, whose Deputy Director we are pleased to welcome here, and at any time he comes to Victoria if he would spend one or two days there and allow somebody to walk with him

and look at these places with regard to these complaints, and not be taken by the Engineer to the best places, for him to look at. I will perhaps walk with our Deputy Director and show him the condition of our country. Monies are being poured in and poured in and we cannot tell how they are being spent. People wish Government to take into consideration the conditions of the general population. The people who are employees of the Cameroons Development Corporation are being well considered; provisions are being made from time to time for their betterment and enjoyment and so on, but the general population is suffering.

In the Cameroons we have these four Divisions, Bamenda Division, Mamfe, Kumba and Victoria. Victoria is on the coast. Before 1914 we had plenty of cocoa and the conditions of labour were very easy, but today the high cost of labour is not encouraging the private farmer to get down to the starting and maintaining of his farms and so most of the farms are all dying out. For many years back the Baptist Missionaries were able to introduce cocoa and our fathers started growing cocoa. The Germans came and wanted cocoa and we went on with this cocoa industry for a long time until 1914 when conditions changed and we were not able to continue with our cocoa farming. Now on the coast we have this very big business of bananas being carried on by the corporation but the natives are not given any chance of disposing of their bananas. When I first removed those old cocoa trees from my estate I thought: since bananas are being shipped to Europe, bananas may still be accepted, by the corporation but I have been told "no" and all kinds of reasons have been invented to appease me so that I may agree with them and so on, but one might say: You are a member of the corporation and you are being paid and you are receiving a salary which is sufficient for you, forgetful of the number of people I support with my money and should I take a piece of paper and just write down the amounts I have to spend in paying land rents, water rates, and many other obligations, clothing, feeding, etc., the money won't be sufficient. The land is there; as my father lived, he had been quite independent, he had never been working for anybody, but he had wives, children and slaves and lived quite happily. Now, if the people, as I say, the general population, had the chance of growing bananas and shipped these bananas through the corporation, it would be very very helpful because these are the things that we on the coast can produce. Going to other places we find Kumba producing plenty of cocoa and it is good for it contributes to their prosperity. I think that Kumba is at the moment the wealthiest Division. The whole of that land up to Bakossi District is very fertile and of course it will be helpful for a man from the coast to be granted lease of land in the Kumba Division.

Coming to Mamfe. Mamfe can produce palm oil, kernels and groundnuts and if they are encouraged enough I am sure they

will still produce plenty of palm oil, palm kernels and groundnuts.

We come to Bamenda where we also have very good soil. They can produce groundnuts as well as coffee, potatoes and many other things. All of these places should be considered as to how they should be encouraged to get cash from their crops and not left just like that, so that when you ask somebody for his tax and he says he is poor and you may not say he is lazy, I say you must give the man a chance of using his land in such a way that he may maintain himself and pay his taxes which cannot be avoided. As I have mentioned tax, I wish to talk something about taxes. As a Chief in my country and a President of the Courts and Native Council we have established a committee which used to be sent round for the assessment of Income Tax. At one time I went round as a teacher to teach the people how they should work the percentage on which they should be assessed, and after that I left this committee to move alone. On my return I found that the people had been deceived. Many traders determined not to give the right figures on which they should be assessed. Everybody knows, not only in Africa but in Europe as well that people are paying taxes unwillingly. I have got to pay £12 this year. If this £12 were to be used by myself without being taken away from me I would be glad, but I find that if I should set such a bad example in trying to evade paying the tax of £12 then I am unworthy of the position I hold because I know the purpose for which these taxes are required. The traders are the people who are making money today. One trader may have twenty market boys. He sits here with very few goods to the value of perhaps £50 and his twenty boys have goods for over £1,000 and when the committee comes to him he says "that is all I have got". While his twenty market boys are moving all over the country and are dealing in hundreds and hundreds of pounds. When they first brought the paper before me and I went through them I was very sorry and annoyed with the committee, I thought they were not trying enough to find out what the people should pay. There are in our country some poor people too, but are not given a chance of saying they can only pay 2s. These people who are the big money makers are the people who complain that they are being ill-treated and badly assessed and appeal to the District Officers, the Resident and His Honour, saying they have been badly assessed. If we are to be true we should be true and honest. We are here talking about self-government, which time will surely bring. Now, when that time comes and we make friends with the traders who have got pounds and pounds and they bribe us to assess them less, such actions will be disadvantageous to the revenue. I do not believe that by doing so you will achieve the things, which a self-government needs and so when I hear that people have been wrongly assessed I cannot justify the story as I have little idea of what is going on in Nigeria.

The next time I went with the committee myself and I found the trader and he tells me: "these are all my goods" and I insisted to know whether he has got one or more places where he has goods, and by so doing, I found out their trick and they were prepared to pay quickly what they were assessed because he was found out. So one cannot always be too sure of your complaints, your blames and your claims. One cannot always be too sure. You may in one case be right and in the other case be wrong and so I think we have got to try and work in true faith, if we want a proper and strong self-government we must start to learn just now that we are having someone to supervise us. Our friends the Europeans are just supervisors and when they find we fail we must take time to do better. So that when time comes we shall be able to look after our house properly.

I have noticed in the affairs of the Cameroons how they are neglected. I remember four or five months past the Native Court clerks are always complaining to me that they were out of Court receipts and that they have always made requisitions for some, but none came. I wrote to the Senior District Officer; the District Officer wired to Lagos for a supply of Native Court receipts. So many people may want to take action; the money cannot be received because there were no receipts. I cannot tell whether paper is no more available in Europe or whether the printing presses in Europe are using all the papers and therefore the Cameroons should not be considered,—but be sure that what I am telling you is quite true. I think if our business is so much neglected like that the people trying cannot be blamed in using other means to help themselves for when I run to the Court for help and there is no Court and I am able to get hold of my debtor, I would help myself to get my money. Should the police come in and say: "you must not use force, but go to Court", I will say but there is no Court. If a man takes the law into his own hands to make his debtor pay his debts and then the Magistrate says "you were wrong and I am going to punish you" without going down to the bottom of the thing and make sure what was the cause of the trouble then I say it was unjust. So I hope that we of the Eastern Provinces should always be given what we want when we ask for it.

Another thing is that on the 22nd of last month on the day that His Excellency the Governor arrived at Victoria, while preparing to go and meet him at the aerodrome in Tiko, a fire broke out in Victoria in the Police quarters. We all ran out, but there were no means of extinguishing the fire. So many people stood by gazing at the fire. The fire started at one end of the line of houses and covered the whole line of houses and burnt it down to ashes. In the German days I used to get the police to put out fires but under the present Government I used to see the apparatus in the Marine Department, so I sent a messenger running to ask for some assistance to put out this fire. The messenger returned and said: "there is no hope for having any instruments

or apparatus which may help in extinguishing the fire". I phoned round to Bota Plantation, thinking that a place with such a big establishment and machinery, might perhaps be able to bring something, but they had nothing to put out this fire and the whole of the line was burnt down. I was then very sorry to see that the town of Victoria is exposed to such a dangerous condition. I wish to bring this up, although I have written to the Senior District Officer from here that he may bring this matter up to our Honourable the Senior Resident, and that it may be submitted that we should have apparatus and men for the protection of properties and the lives of the people. I hope that this will not be ignored. I know that Government can always get money and if ten lines of buildings are burnt down they can soon rebuild these ten lines, but we should appreciate what we have got should be protected and not let it be destroyed so easily.

The next thing that I am doing is to call the attention of this House to the conditions in that place. Before I left I had a meeting with my Federated Council, and it was reported that people had been seen attempting to set houses on fire with the intention to destroy them. They could be caught at the same time if we had sufficient policemen. Well, a place that is subject to such things should be considered to be provided with more policemen. I think if the number of policemen is increased they must be specially instructed to be patrolling from time to time round about their beats and to see that the places are well protected.

I have to thank our Secretary (Finance), very very much for the hard work he has done in preparing the draft Estimates. There have been a few things I have been thinking of but when I got the draft Estimates and found provision had been made for nearly everything that one could think of, I therefore consider that when I get back to Victoria and attend our various committee meetings I may ask our president and chairman to say: "here is money for this and that thing, why should these things not be done?" I can well remember many years back we had a committee meeting in which the short road to Buea was mentioned and everybody agreed that it should be tarred. It is only fourteen miles from the residency down to Victoria and the engineer of the Public Works Department agreed that it should be done. Up to now nothing has been done although it was decided so many years back.

Going through our minutes of these meetings you can prove that what I am saying is true and I am standing here to say that I am prepared to defend my statement and that is my reason for saying that many things are provided for us so that I need not always be blaming Government that they are some what slow; the monies are provided, but the officers in charge are the people who keep us back and I think it is high time they were shaken up and told: "you had better try and use the money for the people and not simply waste it then ask for more money from time to time". I

think it is high time that all the Heads of Departments be interested in the development of the country.

I have to thank your Honour for the patience exercised, and not only Your Honour, but the whole of the House, and while Your Honour is getting tired I think many others might have experienced the same feelings, I therefore thank all of you in exercising patience in listening to me, and so I beg to take my seat.

The Member for Educational Interests (Mr A. Ikoku):

Your Honour, it is my pleasant duty to welcome you to the Eastern Provinces in the name of the proprietors, managers, teachers and school children of the Region. I offer their congratulations on your elevation and promise you in their name the confidence and co-operation of all entrusted with the extremely vital service of education. I offer you the youthful hearts of the child population of this Region in the confident hope that these children will have cause in the years to be to look back gratefully to the happy time they had under Your Honour's administration.

On the part of us adults, we draw much comfort from the thought that in the human heart there are many mansions. We can assure you that our love for Sir Bernard—deep and lasting as it is—will in no way subtract from your deserts.

I beg leave to comment in brief on certain aspects of Your Honour's speech.

First of all, Administration. One is heartened to read of female representation in the Cameroons, secret ballot in Kalabari and grouping for further efficiency in Onitsha and Bende. The time, however, is long past for slow-paced experiments in local government in the Eastern Provinces. The old Latin tag *festina lente* has lost whatever grip it may have had on the imagination of both Government and governed. What is required is more of the *festina* and very little of the *lente*.

Agriculture: We must congratulate this Department on successes with the Pioneer Oil Mill, her experiments with lime and increased rice production. I feel confident that an oil mill in the Aro district somewhere in the circle with Umuchiakuma, Atan and Makur in the circumference will be of immense economic value to the people of the area. Again, in the rice survey undertaken by an expert from Sierra Leone some years ago the banks of the Cross River from Umon to Itu were, I think, declared suitable for rice cultivation. May I ask for information as to Government's intention with regard to opening this area for the cultivation of rice?

While on the subject of rice may I add that there is an insistent and, I believe, widespread demand for rice hauling machines. We hear there is a cheap model obtainable for about £10. The Deputy Director of Agriculture will know, of course. Could he take steps to make these available to cultivators?

Co-operatives: It is interesting to read of two co-operative maternity centres (both in the Udi area of the Onitsha Province). Of course there are quite a number of what one might call self-help maternity centres all over the Region. What is said of the Udi Centres—that “it is obvious that they will not be able to continue without financial help”—may be said of practically all centres of this type. No one denies the value of these centres and it would appear that a case has been established for assistance to such of them as are run to the satisfaction of the medical authorities.

Education: One notes with gratification the increase in school population in the Ogoja and Rivers Provinces and the emergence of local education committees in Ogoja.

The decision to turn the present Trade Training School for ex-servicemen into a trade centre is a very welcome one. Recently, however, the technical institution at Yaba received 1,100 applications for forty advertised training vacancies. This is a pointer and it is to be hoped that the authorities will plan for a large intake when the centre opens in 1950.

We must confess to a great disappointment in the delay in opening the Girls' Teacher Training Centre for this Region. This project was accorded priority as far back as 1946. It is difficult to understand why a major regional project such as this should be shelved from year to year while non-government institutions assisted from development funds are rising up everywhere. Why must the Education Department be tied externally to the apron strings of the Public Works Department? I suggest that if use is made of local contractors we could build faster and possibly cheaper. I am aware of the usual official objections to this course, but I suggest that even technical experts should not claim exemption from the human necessity to face the bald facts of a situation.

Public Works: When last Budget Session I was told that the Aro-Okopedi road was now to be a trunk road B, and the Public Works Department had come into the show my heart leapt within me. Apparently I must have fallen victim to “a careful selection of words” for the hard fact is that that road was water-logged and impassable for about three months this year. I cannot believe that a Government that saw to the Benin-Owo road, or, to come nearer home, the Owerri-Nta-Okpola road, cannot see to it that the Aro-Okopedi road nuisance is a thing of the past. The Aro district is the neglected child in the Calabar Province and Government had better make up its mind as to whether she is or is not part of that Province or indeed of Nigeria.

Labour: We are happy to note the achievement of this Department in the matter of employment of ex-servicemen and I wish to congratulate them on that success.

Public Relations: We welcome most heartily the Regional Public Relations Officer and her staff. She happens to be a friend

of the Region and a great admirer of the region's way of life. We look forward to many happy years of co-operation with her in the service of the Region. Our thanks are due to Government for this measure of decentralisation.

Posts and Telegraphs: Our telecommunications leave much to be desired. When I raised the question of adequate telephone facilities for business men at Aba last July some frantic effort was made to study ways and means of remedying the defect. All that activity has, however, died down without results! Meanwhile Aba waits on. Is it not really disgraceful that for forty-eight years of British occupation a great people like the Aros should still be begging on their bended knees for telegraph and telephone? Can anybody think of any parallel in the whole country. It is an indignity and an insult which is proving too trying for the Aro District. We feel very humiliated about this, perhaps in a way Government does not realise. And we feel literally ashamed that Administrative Officers posted to our district should be in such abject dependence on outside the District for telecommunication with Nigeria. I am severely opposed to all expansions in the medical and telecommunication amenities in the "have" areas until a skeleton service has been established for the "have nots". Our priority slogan should be "essential services for all".

So much for Your Honour's Budget Speech. May I now venture a few remarks on the Financial Secretary's speech in introducing the Estimates.

First of all, the uncomfortable revelation that this Region contributes twenty-six per cent of the whole revenue for the country while appropriating thirty-seven and a half per cent of the total allocated expenditure. We were told at Kaduna last March that the Eastern Provinces were spending more money than their contribution to revenue. Our Financial Secretary has now translated the general assertion into figures. The taunt wounds our pride and this Region should rise like one man and support measures calculated to increase our ability to balance our budget. That is the beginning of true political manhood and constitutes a challenge to all of us who aspire to that maturity. I suggest, Sir, that Your Honour appoint a Select Committee to investigate ways and means of increasing revenue in the Eastern Provinces.

Secondly, the Financial Secretary informs us that a decision has been taken to regionalise educational grants-in-aid. We are not told who took the decision and where and when. Presumably some high-ups and presumably between last August's meeting of the Legislative Council and now. I make these presumptions because the matter came up at Legislative Council last August and the hope was entertained that at least a full dress debate would be held on the issue before any decision was taken. Can anyone wonder if confidence is shaken when this sort of thing happens?

Now educational grants-in-aid are grants to assist in meeting budgetary expenditure and are with generous Governments in the region of £1 for £1 of local effort. It is contrary to the generally accepted notion of grants-in-aid that they should be made to institutions or local government bodies to be added to their reserves in anticipation of contemplated work for years to come. While supporting every possible legitimate effort that can be made for speeding up educational progress in the Northern Provinces, for instance, I most strongly oppose any ideas of regionalisation of grants-in-aid with a view to giving the Northern Provinces "its share of the Education vote" as it is often crudely put. This is veiled Pakistanism. With my friend the Member for Ogoja Province I entered a dissent last month at the Finance Committee in Lagos against the decision to regionalise grants-in-aid of educational and medical services. I do now repeat that objection for the purpose of our record in this Region. If Your Honour would grant a Certificate of Urgency I am prepared, Sir, to table a resolution to the effect that this House is opposed to such regionalisation.

The Financial Secretary's speech raised the question "can Unofficial Members propose increase in expenditure?" I agree with him that the commonly accepted procedure answers the question in the negative, but it will take too long to enter into a debate on this issue. Suffice it to point out that the underlying circumstances are different in the British Parliamentary procedure and ours here and a dangerous fallacy lurks in his argument.

I reject the theory that heads of departments know best the limit of their spending capacity. That may be true of some departments, e.g., the Public Works Department but certainly cannot be true of such departments as Education and Medical where non-Government agencies participate in the service, not until you have a unified national service in these Departments.

Last year the educational votes on grants-in-aid had to be increased nearly 80 per cent due to a situation not envisaged by the Director of Education at the time the Estimates were prepared. I suggest, Your Honour, that heads of departments consult with Unofficial Departmental Committees in preparing Estimates. This procedure has advantages too numerous to detail here and will certainly save both sides of the House considerable embarrassment in the future.

Now to the Estimates before the House. I will confine myself for brevity to the Education vote.

Eastern Provinces—Estimates for 1949-50 (Education):

(a) Regional Mass Education Officer.

(b) Provincial Education Secretaries—to relieve Provincial Education Officers of routine work and be responsible for administration of grants-in-aid. These should be Senior Service personnel and not of Chief Clerk grade, as Scale F4 suggests.

(c) Translator Teachers. I am glad to note this measure of recognition accorded to our vernaculars. I hope the best holders of this post will be encouraged to proceed to Scale F4 and even to the Senior Service according to merit.

(d) Grants-in-Aid of Primary Education (£480,000). I had a fear some Junior Primary schools might be left out of assistance, particularly some who had adjustment grants during the interim awards. I must draw attention to the fact that the intention was, when the new Ordinance was framed, to assist practically every Junior Primary school, even if reduced grants had to be made.

While on the subject of Education I beg leave to digress to an aspect, which though it might be called central is no less regional. I refer to educational scholarships. I want to thank Government for the great increase in the vote for educational scholarships. We hope that the boys and girls do not let us down and something should be done to ensure that the boys and girls return to this country to help enrich it in various walks of life. This is the only justification for scholarships open or otherwise. If Your Honour permits me I am quite prepared to table a resolution to this effect either here or in the Legislative Council.

Finally I want, with apologies for anticipating the Deputy Director of Education, to reply to the Member for Urban Areas other than Port Harcourt in his criticism of the schools. I cannot accept the suggestion in his speech that the schools have failed in their task of training in culture and morals. The truth is that the principals of schools share his anxiety and alarm. The most potent corrupting factor appears to be that portion of our press which can accurately be described as godless and insane. Our fight against this is too well-known to need comment. It is for Nigeria to decide between freedom, including freedom of the press, as decent men all the world over understand it, and the so-called freedom we are getting which is just freedom to commit suicide. While we in the schools set out to inculcate high ideals others are doing their best to destroy these. I deplore the suggestion that the schools have failed.

The Member for Urban Areas other than Port Harcourt
(Reverend O. Efiang, O.B.E.):

On a point of order I wish to point out that I did not say that the schools had failed.

The Member for Educational Interests (Mr A. Ikoku):

Thank you very much. Our experience is that youths leaving school get a rude shock when they enter the world built up of greed and rapacity by their elders. What hope is there left for altruism in a green school leaver who is forced to surrender his high ideals in the grim fact of a situation where he must "dash kola" to one official or another to be given a chance in

life? Until this evil thing in our social life is destroyed the teaching profession must remain severely embarrassed and robbed of a deep and abiding interest in their work as builders of the nation's manhood. I can assure the House that this is a problem of first rate importance and one that is causing the Nigeria Union of Teachers real concern.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The House will adjourn until 2.30 p.m.

The House adjourned at 12.40. p.m.

The House resumed at 2.30 p.m.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

Gentlemen, I have just received a telegram of good wishes from the Chief Commissioner and Members of the Western House of Assembly in the following terms:—

“ Best wishes to you and Members of the House of Assembly on behalf of the Western House of Assembly. May their deliberations in the coming session be successful.”

(Sgd.) Chief Commissioner,
Ibadan.

I am sure, Gentlemen, that you would wish our good wishes to be extended in return to the Western House of Assembly, and I propose to read out to you the suggested reply which will be sent if there is no dissentient voice. If there is a dissentient voice I will then circulate the draft reply for any alterations or amendments which Members may wish to make. The reply is:—

“ Members Eastern House Assembly and self much appreciate the kind message of yourself and the Western House. We heartily reciprocate your good wishes and convey our goodwill and assurances of the fullest co-operation towards the progress of Nigeria.”

Gentlemen, there has been no dissentient voice.

The Provincial Member for the Ogoja Province (Dr F. A. Ibiam):

Your Honour, I would like to thank the Secretary (Finance) for his very able, interesting, and instructive address on the Estimates of Regional Expenditure. Three features in his speech are of special interest, and I would like to make comments on them. Reference was made to the following: “ certain decisions on policy, the most important of which was the regionalization of educational grants-in-aid amounting to no less than £6,340,000.” Previous speakers, Sir, have already said something on this matter. I personally refuse to give my vote to this policy. I do not think that this is the time to regionalize funds for either educational or medical services. These two constitute vital social services. Educational and medical funds should be made available to areas which need and call for

them. I do not regard as good policy any measures which limit medical and or educational progress in any part of Nigeria. As the Member for Educational Interests has already stated we put in a dissent in the minutes recorded by the Standing Committee on Finance of the Legislative Council, and it is my intention to oppose it again here and now.

The Secretary (Finance) also struck a vital note when he said "there is a mass of expenditure in the region quite apart from all this, and the Regional Estimates have just one bite of the apple. We cannot increase our Regional Revenue by expecting a kindly Providence to shake down more apples from the tree for us, but only by our hard work can we increase our revenue." I agree with this statement, Sir, and I have no shame or compunction whatsoever to belabour the point. It is about time we realized or caused it to be realized everywhere in the Eastern Provinces in particular and all over Nigeria in general, that we want progress, and if we want progress in any shape or form we must be prepared to pay for it willingly. It is certainly time we stopped looking for funds from everywhere except ourselves. We work for advancement, for culture, and self-government not so much for ourselves in this generation, but for our children and our children's children. It behoves us, therefore, to build up with care, with love, with a long term view and with tremendous faith and ambition, not rashly, nor hastily, nor yet guided by any policy which makes us rely only on others in our march towards independence and self-expression.

I for one look forward to the time when the proposed local government shall have taken its place in the Eastern Provinces and given us a foundation upon which we shall have the freedom and opportunity of building towards self-autonomy.

Sir, I personally mean to bring a motion before the Legislative Council, if I can, a resolution calling for the imposition of a special tax for educational and medical services. I have no doubt, Sir, that in making such a resolution I shall be putting my foot into hot water, but if it succeeds in having the desired effect there is nothing else I wish.

I must touch upon one seemingly vexed point mentioned by the Secretary (Finance), and that is what is, or what is not the duty of the Unofficial Members in Select Committee. I do agree with his statement which reads as follows:—

"I do not think that anybody would quarrel that the responsible head of a department is in the best position to know how much his department can usefully spend during the year."

Assuredly no sensible person would quarrel with this view with reservations. I take it, Sir, that the whole Estimates have been worked upon by experts, every figure has been scrutinized, and

many long hours have been spent in arriving at the final position and compilation of the Estimates and Memorandum relating thereto. What need is there, may I ask, Sir, to ask the Unofficial Members, who are merely laymen at this job, to look into the Estimates and to suggest increases or deductions or deletions of any item in the Estimates. Surely, Sir, we are not expected to come here and say "Yes" to everything. If the Estimates are already in perfect order I suggest, Sir, that there is no need for the Select Committee of the Unofficial Members to come here and merely say "We approve".

With all due deference to the Secretary (Finance), I must say, Sir, that such would be an insult to our intelligence. Either we are given responsibilities, and credited with some common-sense (and common-sense is not as common as people are apt to think) or we accept no responsibilities.

May I refer you, Sir, to Ogoja Province. I notice, Your Honour, that since His Excellency's arrival in Nigeria he has visited certain parts of the country. His very first tour was in the nature of a quick hop here and there in order to have a general picture or bird's eye view of the country. On that occasion Ogoja Province was left out of the programme. Since then His Excellency has been to several other places. I would like to draw your attention, Sir, that we in the Ogoja Province look forward to giving His Excellency and Lady Macpherson a very hearty welcome. We refuse to be left out in the scheme of things appertaining to the progress of this country and we shall not take it in good part at all if we are left out in this programme of provincial tours.

May I also, Sir, draw your personal attention to this Province. We invite you to make a careful tour of our Province and study at first hand our needs and our difficulties. People of the Ogoja Province are as loyal as any other people inhabiting this country and they desire to ask for your sympathy and help in their determination to march along the lines of progress and development. We are grateful to your officers, European and African alike, who are working hard to make a success of this Province. You must help us, Sir, to help ourselves. There are five Divisional Headquarters in this Province, and a sixth which is a sub-division—I refer to the Obudu Division.

We are anxious, Your Honour, to have this Division given full divisional status. It must have a full Post-Office and telegraph facilities established, especially in view of the fact, and that is a serious thing, that this Division forms the North-Western boundary of the Ogoja Province and that part of the Northern Provinces inhabited by the Tiv people—and everybody knows what sort of people the Tivs are.

Our roads in the Province compare favourably with, if they are not better than, many roads in other parts of Nigeria, but we need bridges constructed with permanent materials.

Our telecommunications are not adequate. We need telephones at least in the Residency and the Resident's Office, the District and Divisional Offices and in the Post Offices.

I do not intend to dwell on such subjects as proper water supply conditions of hygiene and sanitation. These, Sir, you will see for yourself when you give us the honour of your visit to our Province. But, Sir, I must lay emphasis on our desire for ordinary general elementary education. This has always been my plea, Sir, not only in this Assembly, but also in the Legislative Council and in other important assemblies. Like the Second Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province, I affirm, Sir, that it is the duty of this Government to compel the people to have mass education—free mass education. If this Government can compel us to pay taxes for Administration and Social Services I cannot see any reason why it cannot compel us to do what it thinks is good for us and our posterity, particularly as very many of us do not know what eventually is good for our welfare. If my father knew what was good for me and did not encourage nor use compulsion, if necessary, to make me do what was expedient at the time when I could not possibly know this, or decide the issue involved, I would blame him when I reached years of discretion and maturity.

This analogy, Sir, fits the Government, and the governed especially in relation to education.

I must take this opportunity of saying how very grateful we are to the Authorities for their desire and arrangements to give us a Secondary School in the Ogoja Province. I want to thank the Government for a new hospital in Abakaliki. We notice we have the consideration of a new hospital perhaps for Ikom, I am happy, Sir, that maternity sections will be attached to these hospitals as is the case with Abakaliki Hospital. In other words, Your Honour, the Province is sadly lacking in maternity homes and I would like to draw the attention of the Deputy Director of Medical Services to this state of affairs.

I am happy to note, Your Honour, that immediate attention is being given to the incidence of sleeping sickness in parts of the Ogoja Province. We shall do all we can, Sir, to get the co-operation of the people to ensure that the work of the field staff is a success.

Before I close with medical matters, may I point out that there is a need for School Medical Services in the Eastern Provinces. I know we have not the staff for this object, but there is no reason why we should not take a lesson from the Lagos School Clinic owing to the fact that the special medical officer for this School has been drafted to the post of Medical Officer of Health for Lagos, the general medical practitioners in Lagos are now taking turns in looking after those school children. May I say, Sir, that such an arrangement would be welcomed in the Eastern Provinces.

During the discussion of the Medical Department at the recent African Colonial Conference in London emphasis was laid on preventative medicine. I hope, Sir, that it will be possible to establish school clinics in places like Aba, Abakaliki, Calabar, Enugu, Onitsha, Owerri and Port Harcourt and that careful and suitable arrangements would be made for both Government medical officers and the general medical practitioners to give possibly their free services to such school clinics. I hope this suggestion would be considered in earnest by my friends the Deputy Director of Education and the Deputy Director of Medical Services. Finally, may I suggest that a vote be made in the 1949-50 Estimates for this work.

Turning now to Agriculture, Sir, I notice that in the Estimates of Development and Welfare Expenditure, 1948-49-50 provision is made for an ambitious scheme in respect of two sites—Sokoto and Bida in the Northern Provinces, Head 50 of page 159, section " S " and Head 51 page 203.

In the Memorandum on the 1949-50 draft Estimates of Development and Welfare, on page 12, clause 29 is one item about the Research Scheme and reads as follows:—

" Cultivation of rice, both swamp and upland varieties, has increased in Nigeria through the impetus of war conditions and is continuing to expand in response to the increased demand. In order to improve production in existing areas, the provision of pure seed of high yielding strains suitable to the varying conditions is an urgent necessity. Research work proposed under this scheme will include investigations into selection and breeding of types of rice, multiplication of strains, cultivation and planting methods, etc. The research work will be conducted at a number of " satellite " stations (three in the first instance) and the provision in Head 50, section S (£3,370) and Head 51, section ZC (£10,010) is in respect of two stations—*viz.*, Sokoto and Bida."

Two of the satellite stations are to be in Sokoto and Bida, and may I know, Sir, if Abakaliki in the Ogoja Province is by any means to be the third satellite station? If not, why not? Rice industry is in the forefront in the Ogoja Province today. The people are keen and they put in a lot of work to increase yields.

Sir, I am happy to read that the long expected rice machine for the threshing of rice has been installed and is already working. We ask that the rice research scheme should include this Province, it would encourage the people to greater efforts of development.

Local Government: In the matter of local government reform proposed for the Eastern Provinces, I would like to suggest that the Unofficial Members of the Eastern House of Assembly as a body make a tour of the Eastern Provinces, visiting only the Provincial

Headquarters for a general discussion with and giving information to all sections of the community in these places. For the local government idea to be welcomed and accepted, all efforts be made to instruct the people as to the meaning of local government, its constitution and function and what are the ultimate results envisaged. I firmly believe, Sir, that much success will be done and confidence engendered if the Unofficial Members worked together in their propaganda schemes.

With regard to the meeting of the Budget Session of the Eastern House of Assembly, Your Honour, I beg to submit that the present period fixed for the meeting of this House of Assembly causes considerable inconvenience. It is much too near the Christmas festivities, and, as the work of the Assembly is usually heavy at this important Session, there is always haste and impatience to finish the business in time to go home before Christmas Day. Such an atmosphere, Your Honour, cannot be of any use to the reputation and dignity of the Eastern House of Assembly. May I humbly suggest, Sir, that earlier in December or round about the first week in January would be more suitable?

With regard to the Public Works Department, I shall, Sir, in Select Committee, deal with one or two matters which are of interest to a small but important group of workers in the Ogoja Province. In the meantime, Sir, may I ask why the Technical Assistants in the Public Works Department remain at the maximum of £108 per annum and why they are not graded like any other branch of the Civil Service?

In conclusion, Sir, may I be permitted to bring to your notice a matter which in the long run will have something to do with our Budget. I refer, Sir, to transport arrangements in Enugu for visitors and observers to the Eastern House of Assembly. I believe, Sir, that most, if not all of them, have come here by invitation, and it is only right and proper that the public should be given an opportunity of watching the Assembly at work. I should like to submit, Sir, that it is also right and proper that transport arrangements should be made for them, at least from their place of residence in Enugu to the Assembly Hall. After all, Sir, they are our guests. In the general way they expend a lot to come to Enugu in the first place, and then they have to maintain themselves, presumably at costs higher than they look forward to doing. It would be an act of wisdom and grace if the Government could place convenient transport at their disposal, which would help them enjoy not only their privilege as guests of the Eastern House of Assembly, but also their stay at the headquarters of the Eastern Provinces of Nigeria.

Sir, I beg to support the Regional Estimates of Expenditure for 1949-50.

**The Second Provincial Member for the Cameroons Province
(Galega, Fon of Bali):**

Your Honour, I remember I met you at Ibadan during your send-off in August, 1948, and I am welcoming you as the Chief Commissioner for the Eastern Provinces, sitting as our chairman. Your Honour, I feel I must not leave this House without saying a word on a few things. It is my pleasure and on behalf of my constituents to thank you very immensely for the kind proposals you have for the Cameroons at heart. I believe with your opening speech of your proposals about the Cameroons. In view of the facts that there are lots of improvements needed in the Cameroons, we are rest assured, Sir, you shall endeavour to consider the undermentioned deeply and give early attention to:—

Leper Colony, is of an urgent necessity and a full time doctor in charge. The Native Administration will take a large share of the revenue and the Government to provide equipment.

Posts and Telegraphs: Telephone communications are also needed. I have repeatedly put up this question in this House, but received no satisfactory answer. At the moment if there are no materials, temporary ones could be used until when the Government shall get available ones to replace. I am sorry to bring to this House that when I was proceeding to Lagos last, a friend of mine who knew me telephoned me in one of my friends' houses, but sorry I could not know what to do and how to speak to him because I had not the idea since my life. I have never spoken to any one through a phone. Then my friend asked me: "What is it?" Well I could not tell him Cameroons is lacking. I am not ashamed to say it was a very big shame to me, Sir, that my friend might have thought I was a bush-man, seeing a big personality like me could not speak through the phone, I repeat again, Sir, I was very much ashamed.

An Assistant Superintendent of Police was sent to run Mamfe and Bamenda. It is almost a year now that he was transferred to Nigeria. We earnestly look forward to one being sent to replace him. This will help to lessen the volume of work being shouldered by the District Officers. We beg, Sir, the above few points be given early attention.

Thank you, Sir, for your kind permission.

The Member for Port Harcourt (Mr L. R. Potts-Johnson):

Your Honour, it was not my intention to take part in the Budget Debate as I have been instructed by my medical adviser to go easy, but, Sir, it would not be fair for me to return to Port Harcourt without delivering the message of my Port Harcourt people to you. I have been asked, Your Honour, to extend to you their hearty welcome and to say that we are all very anxious to see you at Port

Harcourt. You are the successor of our great friend, Sir Bernard Carr, who was Resident in Port Harcourt for over seven years when he was elevated to the post of Chief Commissioner and before he left this part of the world he paid us a visit. We were very glad to see him and we gave him an enthusiastic civic farewell. We hope, Sir, you will be able to visit us at Port Harcourt at no distant date and I trust I may have the privilege of being present to welcome you with others.

Your maiden address to this House, impressed me very much especially when you mentioned the fact that you were desirous of gaining the confidence of the people. That is very very necessary today, Sir, and I believe it is necessary also in the case of every Administrative Officer. Nearly all Administrative Officers today are viewed with suspicion. There is no suggestion made by a European of any department especially of the Administrative Service which is received by the people in good faith. It is so generally. But in Port Harcourt I am happy to tell you, Sir, that there is an understanding amongst the people with our Administrative Officers and there is nothing to be afraid of. With that, Sir, I have finished, but it only remains for me to say with reference to Port Harcourt, that when you visit us you will find that you have visited a place worth visiting.

Really speaking I did not intend to say anything in this House this time until I heard the address of the Second Member of the Onitsha Province. It was a very fine address and I must admit that I agreed with him in every thing he said except this, *viz*: we must have self-government and if needs be we must fight for it. Your Honour, there is nothing to fight for, Sir, self-government is here. When the Member for Urban Areas other than Port Harcourt spoke the other day he mentioned some Departments in which Africans are holding senior posts with credit. Self-government is here and if people who lived in the world fifteen or twenty years ago were permitted to come back and see some of the positions held by Africans both in the civil service and mercantile departments they would gasp with wonder: "We are indeed marching towards self-government". We need not be afraid of that. Self-government will come, as a result of an evolutionary process and progress will gradually follow if we can only wait for it. Government posts will be filled by Africans by a process that is akin to the process of mathematical elimination if we can only wait for it. If we say we want to fight for it, we shall only retard the progress towards self-government, and that is the opinion of some people in Port Harcourt and we are anxious about it. I say it, Sir, and I say it most seriously, that we are anxious about men who hold positions of honour today and who are at the forefront, that they should be men who place a premium on moral integrity. When this happens, Your Honour, and when the average man can do right because it is right and not for any hope of reward or fear of punishment, when men

will be honest and true and will place service before wealth, then self-government is marching towards us. We cry, or some of our friends cry for self-government. We want it in fifteen, ten or five years; some want it now. Well, Sir, Port Harcourt is having self-government on the 1st of January, 1949.

We are looking forward to it; the Government has granted us municipal status and we hope to make a success of it; we are not going to disappoint you. Already there is a good number of our women folk who have formed themselves into a party and that is the only thing I am afraid of, Your Honour. It will certainly be a serious state of affairs if we should have all women representatives in the Port Harcourt Municipal Council. I met them some time ago and I told them it might come to pass that the wards may each send two women to the Council and at the end we may get twelve women representatives. It would indeed mean trouble for us. I am afraid of it. But let us hope that it will only exist in the imagination—we will watch that.

We hope and trust, Your Honour, that when the municipality comes we shall not be altogether left to raise all the money we need. We hope the Central Government will give us some grant to enable us to pull through.

It was difficult for the people to accept the municipality especially when it was heard that the municipality would mean payment of rates, etc. Now the other day the Local Authority told us that when we cannot balance our township budget the rates would have to be levied at 4s in the £. We are now prepared for a rate of 2s in the £, Your Honour, but it took us some time to get the people to consent to the municipality because of the trouble of paying 2s in the £, and if for some reason or other Government were to say: "We do not grant you municipality in Port Harcourt again" I am sure there will be riot in the town.

The next thing I wish to touch upon is the question of coverage which has been introduced by the town planning authority. You may not be able to grasp all the points involved at once but I am sure our Resident will be able to tell you everything about that later on. We have sent a petition to His Excellency the Governor and His Excellency has sent it back to tell us that we should take the matter to the town planning authority; he cannot interfere. We are left to ourselves. A proposition has been drawn up signed by another person in the town planning authority and myself, and we may have to appeal to Your Honour for help and I hope we shall not be disappointed.

Now, all that has been said about Education by the Member for Educational Interests are well in place and I agree with every word he had to say. In Port Harcourt we cannot cry for colleges and secondary schools. We have got the Roman

Catholic Secondary School and the Baptists are hoping to get a big plot of land to establish a secondary school and there is another secondary school which I would not like to mention. Port Harcourt has now a Provincial Education Officer, Sir, who is an African and he is the first African Provincial Education Officer. We have him in Port Harcourt, Sir, and I know he is the best Provincial Education Officer we have ever had including even my friend here the Deputy Director of Education.

Your Honour, Port Harcourt is no ordinary place and it is like no other town in the Eastern Provinces.

My friend, the First Provincial Member for the Owerri Province spoke about the Nigerian Railway. I would not like to quarrel with the Nigerian Railway, but I feel I must agree with what he said about those who travel by the railway to this place. We suffer a great deal of inconvenience, Your Honour. I was lucky last Friday when I took the train and I got here at 4.30 p.m., in time, and I sent a telegram to my wife to tell her that I had a most pleasant journey, but generally speaking the accommodation, the first class accommodation, is far worse than the third class accommodation in England. Everything is far too old. Some of the coaches should be condemned. I was told that the people in the Western Provinces have better coaches than we have. They have new coaches and they run to time. What is the trouble with us in the Eastern Provinces? Are we not under the same Government as those of the Western Provinces? What have we done? What is our crime that the Railway should treat us in the way they now do? I may go so far as to say, Your Honour, that the conveniences, or what are called conveniences are no conveniences at all; they are inconveniences, and I hope, Sir, that we are not mentioning these things in this House only for fun, just as the First Member for the Onitsha Province has put it but they are mentioned that notice should be taken of them. Many things are mentioned in this House and it is the last we hear of them. This is the place where we should get our complaints aired and we expect them to be put right in time.

The last thing I wish to say is about the point touched upon by my friend the Member for Ogoja, and that is visitors who are asked to come to this House of Assembly. We have the same complaint in Port Harcourt. In fact I took the same complaint to the Resident the other day. People would like to come but they have not got any means of transport. We have no visitors from Port Harcourt this time because their transport could not be paid for. I trust you will look into this question which has been put by the Member for the Ogoja Province and at the next meeting of the House we will hear that transport for visitors could be paid.

Your Honour, I am done.

The Resident, Calabar Province:

Sir, it is my most painful duty to reply to the matters raised by the five Members closely associated with me in the Calabar Province.

To deal in turn with the points raised. The Member for the Urban Areas other than Port Harcourt suggested that provision for the transport of the population of Calabar by taxi is inadequate owing to the lack of petrol. Sir, I regret that this matter did not come to my attention, but I can assure the Member who raised the question that I shall enquire into the position with the Deputy Controller of Motor Transport at the earliest opportunity. I am happy to know that the people of Calabar are in a sufficiently healthy financial position to be able to afford the hire of mechanical transport. I am more than encouraged by the evidence of prosperity in Calabar.

The Member himself, Sir, mentioned his interest in the increased revenue from taxation. On the basis of the information supplied by him, he and I together can look forward to a happy future in this respect.

We turn now, Sir, to the question of the suppression of Idiong. The Second Provincial Member for the Calabar Province has spoken at length and with some feeling on the action of Government in regard to this society and requested that the ban imposed thereon by Order in Council No. 9 of 1947 should be lifted. The Member spoke of distress, Sir, caused to the people whom he represents by the prolongation of the ban. I must, however, emphasize what has already been said in this House. A year ago, Sir, a similar protest against the action by Government in this matter was made. It was made clear at the time that Government had acted only after full consideration and on the basis of a considerable amount of information concerning the Idiong Society. There was no question, Sir, with regard to the suppression of this society of any hasty action by Government in this matter. I must point out, Sir, that Government was, and is, determined to free the Calabar Province from atrocities of this nature, and I trust that the Member who places so great emphasis upon the revival of the Idiong Society will realize that it is not with the society as such that Government is concerned but with preventing any recurrence of the Leopard murders. I repeat, Sir, as I also said in this House a year ago, that it was only after the most careful consideration, and in the light of most convincing evidence that the Society had a direct bearing on the Leopard murders, that the Society was suppressed. The Second Member for the Calabar Province, Sir, will find at page 129 of the printed copy of the Debates of this House, in December, 1947, quotations made by me from a report written by delegates of the Ibibio Union who had toured the Leopard area. You will take special note, Sir, of the contents of this report. If you will refer, Sir, to page 132 of the printed copy of Debates to which I refer, you will find there

expressed, by the Secretary, Eastern Provinces, the conclusion which will, I think, be inescapable to the Members of this House, namely, Sir, that the complicity of the Idiong Society in the Leopard murders, which was already obvious and firmly believed by Government, was indeed admitted by persons, who as the Secretary, Eastern Provinces then pointed out, held quite obviously a more impartial view that could have been taken by any committee appointed by Government to go into the question. The Member alleges that this report was the creation of a single individual acting on his own initiative regardless of the delegates of the Union, but this conclusion, Sir, I do not for one moment accept. I am confident, Sir, that in this respect the Member has been misinformed. The point which has been raised, Sir, is that since other restrictions have been removed from the areas where the Leopard murders took place there is neither excuse nor justification for the maintenance of the ban on the Idiong Society, Sir. I do not agree. The Members of this House will have no wish, Sir, to incur any risk of a further outbreak of Leopard murders. The connection in the past between the Idiong Society and the Leopard murders is accepted by Government, and has never been disproved, nor, Sir, do I believe that it can be disproved. Surely, Sir, the Leopard murders are so recent in the point of time that Government is justified in taking every precaution to prevent a further outbreak. We shall, I suggest, Sir, be guided by future events in the areas concerned.

I continue with the next point raised by the Second Member of the Calabar Province which involves, Sir, no more than an extension of the subject to which I have been referring. The detention of Chief Ntuen Ibok, as was the suppression of the Idiong Society, was a step taken to put an end to the Leopard murders. This man, Sir, was committed to custody under the Peace Preservation Ordinance. We were not, Sir, dealing with crimes of a minor nature and in a serious situation such as that with which Government was then confronted, strong steps were necessary in the interest of the people themselves. The circumstances, Sir, gave rise to a reasonable suspicion in the particular murders then being investigated that the police were not receiving the full co-operation to which they were entitled and which it was essential they should receive. Indeed, Sir, after the man in question was committed to prison the investigation of the murders concerned proceeded to its successful conclusion, I can see, Sir, no comparison whatsoever between this case and the case quoted by the Member in which a Chief of Calabar was deposed from his office—so the Member states—for failing to arrive in time to meet His Excellency. I submit we are not dealing here, Sir, with ceremonies or meetings with prominent officials. Our concern in the matter to which the Member has referred was with human lives, and I do not believe that any Member of this House will question the paramount importance

mentioned by the Secretary, Finance and Development, of the Regionalisation of Grants-in-Aid to schools. This decision I understand was taken towards the end of September by Government after consideration of the Phillipson report in which the matter is gone into in some detail—on pages 68 to 71 of that extremely interesting and valuable report. I do not propose to follow the example of some of the Unofficial Members and quote it in details as I am sure everybody in the House either has a copy of it or can get or see copies of it, but it is stated there, in the consideration of Grants-in-Aid regulations in relation to Nigerian and regional finance that “education has been classified as a Regional Service, and in general it can hardly be classified otherwise”. After some two and a half pages of further consideration, which are entirely on financial grounds, Mr Phillipson was forced to the conclusion that in the present state of lack of Regional financial autonomy the only thing that could be done was to treat the grants as Nigerian and not Regional; but after further consideration it has been decided that administration of grants-in-aid should be done at the Regional and not the Nigerian level, mainly, I imagine, in order to facilitate this administration, and on this point I would say that the provision of grants-in-aid which is proposed for the Eastern Region in the coming financial year amounts to the not inconsiderable sum of £634,000. The administration of this sum may devolve partly even at a lower level—the Provincial. Government, as I understand it, has undertaken to see that regional finances will be given the necessary provision; that is to say the money required will be forthcoming in Regional Estimates.

I imagine the anxiety of the Member for Educational Interests, and the Member for the Ogoja Province who also mentioned the matter, is due to some suspicion that we may at some later date be told that we have to live within the revenue that is apportioned to us, and while this is obviously a most desirable state of affairs, as I see it the revenue which will be apportioned to us in the next few years will certainly include enough for this most important matter of grants-in-aid, and I can assure the Member for Educational Interests that the provision made in the next financial year is exactly what I asked for and I do not think he will find it is niggardly.

He mentioned that one of his reasons for anxiety was that in the last financial year the Education grant was increased towards the end of the year by 80 per cent. I do not think that figure is quite correct, Sir, but however it was increased, and he suspected, if I understood him correctly, that the reason for that was the difficulty in estimating the needs of the voluntary agencies. You must remember that that particular difficulty arose last financial year owing to new salary scales being made out for voluntary agency teachers and naturally all calculations of grants-in-aid were upset.

The present situation is quite different and I can see no difficulty in estimating with reasonable accuracy from year to year the needs under this particular head.

Most of the rest of the points made by the Member for Educational Interests would better be answered, I think, Sir, in Select Committee.

The First Provincial Member for Onitsha referred, to my great surprise, to some children being dismissed from schools owing to the introduction of the new Education Code. Well, I must simply and emphatically state I do not understand what he means, and I wish to say with all the emphasis I can command that there is no intention whatsoever, when the new Education Ordinance comes into force, that any children who now receive education will cease to receive it. The intention of the Ordinance is quite simply to implement the Memorandum of Educational Policy that this House discussed a year ago that states that in the shortest possible time at least four years' schooling should be given to every child in Nigeria.

Now, Sir, if I may turn to practical matters. The Estimates which we are supposed to be discussing show an expenditure of £755,250, on education in the Eastern Provinces, or more than was spent in the whole of Nigeria as recently as 1946-47, and this sum is not all, for Development Estimates show, under one head, £200,000, which I have not the slightest doubt will be spent, and under another head £24,500, all for the Eastern Provinces. Among other items in the Development Estimates, Head 51 (b) shows expenditure which will become available as Government Educational institutions which are to be sited in the Eastern Provinces get into their stride. Again, there is provision for technical education, not only for the establishment of the Trade Centre at Enugu, but for the construction of a Trade Centre somewhere near Tiko in the Cameroons amounting to £94,000 odd. Further, the building programme of the Public Works Department includes educational buildings to the value of £147,400.

I would like to refer the First Provincial Member for the Owerri Province to page 229 of the Development Estimates, Appendix I, section B, in which he will see that provision is made for the extension of the Government College at Umuahia. In all, Sir, the sums available for educational purposes in the Eastern Provinces in the year 1949-50 reach the total of £1,328,190 and so I say that the First Provincial Member for Onitsha and everyone else in this House need have no fear that there is any intention to turn any children out of school.

The Second Member for the same Province advocates an even bolder policy for education. In addition to an expenditure of over one million pounds, if I understand him aright, he proposes to lead

a bayonet charge to drive children into Native Administration schools, which, alas, at the moment are non-existent. Seriously, however, I should not like it to be thought that Native Administrations are anxious to avoid their duties in the educational field, notably, as the Provincial Members concerned can testify, in the Calabar and Cameroons Provinces. I feel, myself, that local government reform will inevitably lead to educational reform by way of local educational authorities and committees, with the added interest and advantages which such bodies have brought to education elsewhere—notably in the Western Provinces.

The First Provincial Member for Onitsha suggested that all voluntary agencies should be eligible for grants-in-aid for their schools. Voluntary agencies, Sir, can be approved as grant earning and the rules for approval are quite clearly laid down in Regulation No. 4 of Schedule A to the new Education Ordinance. Any voluntary agency which in future does not become eligible for assistance will only have itself to blame.

The Member for Urban Areas other than Port Harcourt mentioned the grave concern that is being expressed at the present product of our schools. He mentioned both the lack of culture and self-discipline among the scholars. I had proposed to answer this, Sir, but it has been answered by my friend the Member for Educational Interests in terms perhaps more emphatic than I should have found myself able to use in this House. May I assure the Member for Urban Areas other than Port Harcourt that the Education Department never ceases to consider this particular problem. It was, in fact, one of the main points I endeavoured to make in my last Annual Report. I feel, Sir, that it is not generally realised that the great problem facing Education in the Eastern Provinces today is the lack of trained teachers. Whatever criticisms you may have of school children, or whatever the reason may seem like at first thought, you have got to get down to the root of the matter, which is the lack of trained teachers. A great deal has been done in the last two years and the output of teachers in these years has, I think I am right in saying, more than doubled, but from the very fact that there has in the past few years been such a shortage of teachers it is not always easy to find suitable people to train to be teachers. In other words, it is the usual vicious circle.

The Second Provincial Member for the Owerri Province asked why the Owerri Middle School has not been raised to Middle VI. My own feeling is that questions of this nature might well have been put on the Order Paper instead of taking up the debating time of this House. However, as a criticism of Government policy is implied, I can answer that I am not aware of any definite promise ever having been made that Owerri Middle School should reach Middle VI, though certainly when I was Provincial Education Officer of the Province I hoped it should. It must be remembered that Government boarding schools are not intended to serve the area in

which they are situated, and many factors are taken into consideration before a Government secondary school is established in any place. When the intention was first mooted to raise Owerri Middle School to Middle VI there was no intention to double Umuahia College, nor was there any idea of building a new Government Boys' Secondary School at Afikpo; nor was it known that one voluntary agency would open boys' secondary schools at Owerri itself and Orlu, and another at Nkwerre. Nor that private owners would start secondary schools at Owerri, again, and Oguta. This shows, I think, that secondary education in Owerri is not neglected. The same Member asked another question about a school in Calabar, though why one of the formidable battery of Members from Calabar did not ask it I cannot imagine. The question was why permission was refused for Duke Town School to extend beyond Middle IV. The answer is quite simple. Permission was sought to add Middle V and the staff which was proposed for the Middle V school was rather weaker than its staff for the present Middle IV school. There are far too many secondary schools, or so called secondary schools, in the Eastern Provinces with poorly qualified staffs and the Education Department is most anxious that any of those that are assisted from the public purse must conform to some minimum staff requirements.

The Member for the Professional and Wage-earning Classes criticised women's education in the Eastern Provinces. I was rather surprised to hear that it is inferior in quality to that in the West, though I am fully aware that it is inferior in quantity. The plans of the Education Department show that it is hoped to improve matters as soon as possible. He mentioned the Women's Training Centre which is being built in Enugu, and that was also mentioned by the Member for Educational Interests. I can only answer that the Principal and some of the staff of this institution have been in Nigeria for some eighteen months and as soon as the buildings are made available for the school to start, there will be no delay by my Department. I see it is hoped in the Development Estimates next year to provide the sum of £40,000 for the building of the Womens' Training Centre at Enugu.

The First Provincial Member for Onitsha asked for the definition of Commercial Schools. I do not know, Sir, if there is any good and tried definition. It seems to me that a school which claims to be a Commercial School is a school which runs classes for commercial subjects and thus requires specialist teachers and specialised equipment. There are in the urban areas institutions which are labelled "commercial schools" and to compare these with the institutions known as "commercial schools" in the United Kingdom strikes me as farcical. I challenge the First Provincial Member to show me a single commercial school in the Eastern Provinces which is in a position to teach commercial subjects

properly. He mentions that they are refused permission by the Cambridge Examination Syndicate to enter candidates for the Cambridge School Certificate. I cannot see how they can imagine they should have asked for permission to teach commercial subjects if as soon as they get this permission they become mere cramming institutions for the School Certificate, and it is schools of this nature that give some of the educational work in the Eastern Provinces today the bad name which was mentioned by the Member for Urban Areas other than Port Harcourt.

Another point, Sir,—the Member for Professional and Wage-earning Classes was perturbed at the difficulty in placing persons in the universities of the United Kingdom and suggested that an effort might be made to place them in Dominion universities. I am sorry to say I have no information on the subject of how many places there are available at such universities, or whether these universities would be willing to accept candidates from Nigeria, but as far as I can see I think it will be well worth while pursuing the idea, and he himself as a member of the Central Scholarship Committee will no doubt take the matter further and what little weight I am able to add to his words I am prepared to do.

What concerned me more, Sir, is what he also mentioned—the difficulty of professional training below University level, but he is aware, I think, that there is a small Commission at present in Nigeria and West Africa which is considering the establishment of regional colleges on a more or less polytechnic basis.

The Member for Ogoja Province, Sir, pleaded for a school medical service. In the debate on the Memorandum of Educational Policy a year ago I referred to this matter and to the difficulties in the way. I imagine that my colleague, the Deputy Director of Medical Services, will agree with me that the difficulties are at present unsurmountable in rural areas and I imagine they are still pretty difficult, by way of staff and other shortages, in the Urban Districts. However, I do agree it is a most desirable step, and I am going to discuss the matter with the Deputy Director of Medical Services and see if any improvements are possible in the visible future.

The Deputy Director of Agriculture, Eastern Provinces:

Your Honour, I shall refer very briefly to some of the points on agriculture which have been raised by Members. The Reverend Member for Urban Areas other than Port Harcourt stressed the need for making agriculture an attractive profession to the young men of Nigeria and also for providing suitable agricultural training. I can assure all Members that it is the aim of the department to demonstrate to people that the form of agriculture which we wish to foster is not only profitable, but provides a most honourable profession that could be attractive to the youth of this country. It is one of the most depressing things

that I have found since coming to the country that agriculture as a profession is looked down upon by many young men who after passing Standard VI are ashamed to take up agriculture. This is wrong. In Ceylon, where they have an even stronger nationalist spirit than here, young men devote themselves to the service of their country and come forward willingly to work in agriculture and to serve their country in that way, while setting up not only in Government service, but on their own and making a profit at it. I feel very strongly on that point. As for training, it is our intention to increase practical training for the sons of farmers as much as lies within our power.

I can assure the Member for the Rivers Province, Sir, that more work will be done in his Province as soon as we have the necessary staff but I would say rapid progress cannot be assured until we do get that staff. It is no good our trying to go forward and spend a lot of money without having well-planned and well-supervised work and I do not want to waste our money.

There is a point on which I must apologise to the First Provincial Member for Calabar and that is the mistake which has crept into the printed address of Your Honour. The sentence to which he referred should read: "An experimental farm and an oil-palm research sub-station are to be established at Abak". There are, in fact, two separate units—the first which is a professional farm to be run by the Agricultural Department is to demonstrate the cultivation of ordinary crops and fruits and to improve the standard of agriculture in the Province generally. The money for that is provided in the Regional Estimates. The second—the Oil-palm research sub-station is a branch station of the Oil-Palm Research Scheme which has been set up. We felt that we wanted to get this into service and we pressed for a sub-station for the Eastern Provinces where very much oil production takes place.

The same Member spoke of the need for more work on rice and I personally could not agree with him more. The cultivation of rice is expanding rapidly and it may interest Members to have a few figures. In Ogoja Province before 1943 no rice was grown at all. In 1947 we had 4,500 acres of rice. In 1948 we had 9,000 acres. Similarly a recent report I have had from Onitsha Province says that this year the area under rice has been 40 per cent higher than 1947. That, I think, indicates that we are progressing and our work is having some effect. A start has been made in clearing swamps and cultivating rice in the Calabar Province. There is only six acres this year but clearing is taking place in this area and I hope to have fifty-six acres in the swamps next year. A sum of £3,430 has been included in the Regional Estimates and a further sum of £3,500 in the Development Estimates for this work. We intend to work and to get the work going but as I say staff is the critical factor. We must have the staff to work with.

The Provincial Member for Ogoja Province refers to the funds provided for rice research stations in the Northern Provinces in the Development Estimates. There has been a proposal for creating a central Rice Research Scheme for West Africa with sub-stations in different areas. These are the beginnings of a scheme but it is not proposed to restrict it to the Northern Provinces and I can assure you that I shall do my best to see that we get a Rice Research Scheme sub-station in the Eastern Provinces if we think it necessary.

The rice mills which were started this year at Aguleri in Onitsha Province and at Okpoha in Ogoja Province are proving extremely popular and another is in course of erection at Abakaliki. I feel these rice mills which make it possible for people to bring their paddy and convert it into milled rice will have a great effect on expanding rice cultivation. For the information of the Member for Educational Interests I would say that the small hand rice mill to which he referred has not proved satisfactory. It breaks the rice very considerably. The mills which we are now working cost with building about £900, and I would say that if one added to them a corn mill it would cost approximately £1,100. These remarks I made about rice are, I admit, small beginnings in a big area like the Eastern Provinces of Nigeria, but they are beginnings only. Rice cultivation will play a very important part in the agricultural development of the Eastern Provinces.

The First Member for the Calabar Province also complained about the smallness of the sum of £1,000 which was earmarked for soil conservation in the Estimates. This amount I may say merely represents a sum of money which is set aside for carrying out demonstrations on farmers land. It does not represent at all the total amount of money we hope to spend on soil conservation for demonstration purposes on our own farms, and on demonstration farms also. We would have asked for more money if we could have spent it, but we are always faced with a great difficulty in the fragmentation of land in the Eastern Provinces which prevents us from going in and setting up soil conservation measures which would check erosion and add to the improvement of the fertility of the soil. Our main work in agriculture here is in investigating and promulgating practice which will ultimately lead to an increase in soil fertility and the prevention of soil wash and wastage.

The First Provincial Member for Onitsha Province spoke of the lime kilns at Awgu. I can assure him that the Agricultural Department is not running away. Lime is only applied to the soil at certain times of the year and there is a slack season. I think if he went again and just now, he would find them working very well, and the amount of lime we require will keep them fully occupied.

The Acting Deputy Director of Medical Services, Eastern Provinces:

Sir, many of the Members have remarked on the inadequacy of the Medical Department in the Eastern Region. By the word "inadequacy" I think they mean in the quantity of the work and not in the quality. And in this inadequacy of service I agree with them. There is so much that we would like to do; so much we have planned to do; so many hospitals we hope to build, but we cannot get it all done at once; our main trouble is lack of professional staff.

I think every Member who spoke indicated it was lack of staff and lack of medical officers that worried them most of all and I heartily agree with them in that matter.

Indeed the First Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province talked lengthily on the exodus of the Yaba graduates from the Service. I have been in this country such a short time, and I am amazed to hear that we have lost in such a short period as six months three of our recently graduated doctors from the Yaba School. The suggestion that the Service should be made more attractive for them is not a good one in as much as their terms of service are quite satisfactory. On the other hand there are outside interests, such as private practice which interests them far more and it is for that purpose they leave us. Taking one or two points raised by the individual Members.

The Second Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province started with a point which we are actually dealing with, that is the shortage of ambulances throughout the country. He states that we have one ambulance in Enugu and it is used only for accident cases. This is not correct. It is at the moment being used only for emergency cases, which is quite a different thing. It can be used for emergency cases, operations, maternity or accidents that may occur. He will be interested to know also I am expecting a smaller ambulance for town use in Enugu. We feel that the Local Authority, whose duty it normally would be is not yet in a position to provide an ambulance. The same Member, who comes from Onitsha, I believe, stated that in the town of Onitsha there was no ambulance.

The Second Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province (Mr C. D. Onyeama):

On a point of explanation, I come from Enugu.

The Acting Deputy Director of Medical Services, Eastern Provinces:

Well, as it so happens an ambulance was supplied to Onitsha about six or eight weeks ago. The position regarding ambulances is that they have not been coming in very well, particularly for the Eastern Region. I think for this year ten new ones are recommended, of which so far six have been distributed to the Cameroons, Calabar, Owerri, Onitsha. I hope to get at least four more before the end of the financial year.

The other point made by the same Member was about hospitals between Enugu and Onitsha. I think he meant Government Hospitals. There is a very good Mission hospital at Iyi Enu in this area, and in the coming year we hope to have a new one well advanced in Nsukka.

A rather interesting point was made but not accepted by me by the First Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province, that the Mission Hospitals are doing more work than the Government hospitals. I have heard that before, and on going into the figures, and apart from large ones like Iyi Enu, the figures did not uphold that contention; in some places, far from it; on the other hand, while they do more work, according to the statement, than the Government hospitals, they have to depend entirely on money received from voluntary organizations. They do largely, there is no doubt, but Government up to now has been ready to assist them with grants, mainly for equipment, the cost of which they cannot afford. Mention was made that this particular hospital near Onitsha required £100,000. I am quite sure it does; the unfortunate thing is at the moment Government has not decided whether to pay grants to Mission hospitals for current expenses on staff, but has given small grants for equipment, etc., but I know that our intentions are very much more generous than it has been in the past and a Commission has been appointed with Phillipson to go into the matter of grants to the Voluntary Hospitals and from what I know of this work and this Commission, the proposals are going to be put to Government consideration for capital expenditure and the question of recurrent expenses for staff which has never been done before. I may say also that in this particular sphere a Senior Medical Officers' Conference of this Region had a consultation with Mr Phillipson on this particular point and we approved the principle of Mission hospital grants subject to one or two requirements which you understand are very necessary. The shortage of hospital accommodation we all know. We are trying to overcome it. The First Provincial Member for Onitsha made a suggestion that Government should lend financial support to Cottage hospitals run by the practitioners. As a matter of fact the number of private practitioners in the Eastern Provinces would not allow of very many such hospitals, and I would not like to imagine Cottage hospitals run by one man alone and also it is very questionable whether they would be able to obtain what we are not able to obtain—adequate nursing staff, but I will say the provisions of the Private Hospitals Ordinance contain nothing to say you cannot run a private hospital. However, the project is merely a suggestion at the moment and I would not like to say how it would develop. The Second Provincial Member for Owerri again stressed the need for more staff and medical facilities. I quite agree and I would like to promise him a second medical officer at Umuahia in the next year,

but we are not getting sufficient graduates from Yaba or from Europe and it will be some time before we can get them from Ibadan.

The Member for the Rivers Province asked for an extension of services for the Rivers Area which suffers greatly on account of firstly shortage of doctors and secondly difficulty of communications. The suggestion of a twelve-bed hospital for Bonny and district again raises the same question of inadequacy of staff, and therefore it would be easier and we would get better service by having a travelling dispensary for the Rivers Province as somebody suggested they had in Egypt.

The Provincial Member for Owerri stressed again the lack of medical officers, and give a harrowing picture of a station where a Medical Officer had to be away for five days. It was so bad we had to send a relief doctor from Port Harcourt for the time being. I agree with him heartily that for the rest of the population two medical officers and a nursing sister are not enough. He brought to our notice the need for electric plant in our hospitals; it is time we should give this our attention. This has already received attention throughout the medical service, not only in this region, and has now got to the stage when money is being allocated for this electrical equipment for emergency light for hospitals, not only for ourselves, but also we have asked for it to be given to the mission hospitals and we have asked for grants to cover cases of this nature.

Health Centres. If I understand rightly he meant Rural Health Centres such as we propose to have in the country for Owerri Province. I think if he looks into the programme of development for the coming financial year he will see we have provision for a Health Centre in Owerri, the first one of its kind in this region. The Provincial Member for Ogoja spoke of a hospital at Abakaliki and elsewhere too. Well, Abakaliki has a hospital this year, a new one, already in operation. There is also a new maternity wing which I hope will be completed before the end of the year because he was right about the need for maternity facilities. The school medical service point raised is one of considerable significance and we wish it could be implemented. The method in Lagos is new to me, and I do not see how we could act quite in that way in the smaller towns, however, my friend the Deputy Director of Education and myself will get together on this matter, for it is a thing in which I have a personal interest. One remaining point, Sir, has been raised by the Second Provincial Member of the Cameroons. He asked for a leper settlement and medical officer to run it. When I was acting as Senior Leprosy Officer there was a settlement at Mamfe and I sent a Leprosy Medical Officer to make a survey. He examined all the cases there, and found that most of them were non-infected cases who could have been sent home and those who were infected were few

that will gladden quite a lot of hearts. But that is only in Appendix I and more will be found elsewhere. However, it is not my intention to continue such a recital. Anyone else can search as well as I can. The figures are there to be seen and they speak for themselves, and at this particular moment I am not in a position to interpret them.

I will now turn to some of the points which remain. I cannot hope to place these remaining points and tag ends in any logical order, since up to the moment when I rise to speak new things are always coming up. I am not looking for excuses, but the debate must come to an end sometime and I must therefore get on with it; much as I should like, Sir, to follow the example of the Unofficial Members by asking for an adjournment while I had time to consider my reply. The meeting of Select Committee follows after this debate, and this will be the opportunity for further answers, but there is also the inexorable process of time through which either myself or my successor must deal with every single point that has been raised, and I can assure the House that the points have been recorded on a piece of paper which will not be relegated to the waste paper basket.

Well, Sir, my friend the Member for Urban Areas other than Port Harcourt and my friend, the First Provincial Member for Calabar, both made some reference to personal emoluments; they were not altogether happy about them, I am afraid, and they felt that they take up rather a large proportion of the Regional Estimates. Of course they do, Sir. If we examine the Regional Estimates and compare them with some other estimates we see at once that there must be a very large proportion of personal emoluments, because so many of the regional services depend by their very nature upon personal emoluments. One of our heaviest items of expenditure is Police. A policeman is paid to do his job and by its nature a policeman's job is mainly a personal emolument service and that is an end to it. And my friend, the Deputy Director of Medical Services, would agree that the essential thing is to pay the doctor. Administration, accounting and all such things are naturally personal emolument services. That does not detract from their value, and the proportion of emoluments in the Estimates can only be looked at in this light. A point which was raised was the question of the expatriation pay to expatriate officers, and the suggestion was made that it was desirable to show in the Estimates only what the tax payer can afford as the salary for a job, without discrimination of race, colour, creed or anything else, and that extras should be paid from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds. That suggestion, Sir, is by no means new and it is of some interest, but I would like to point out, Sir, that in the Estimates we only do show one salary, without discrimination of race, colour or anything else. There is only one salary for any post in the Estimates. Expatriation pay is shown quite separately, not with the salary. If expatriation pay were paid

from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds we should presumably have less from Colonial Welfare and Development Funds for something else. Therefore I cannot see what particular benefit this would give to Nigeria as a whole. The same Member, Sir, the Leader of the Unofficial Members, and my friend, the Member for the Rivers Province, mentioned industrial development and stressed the very great need for it. I do not think anyone will be in doubt of that, and, if I may say so, in a few days' time when we get to another stage in this session we shall be discussing a Bill, which by certain means will provide the wherewithal for the development of local industries.

My friend, the Second Member for the Calabar Province, raised the question of the conditions of service of a particular class of civil servants and reference has been made already to this by my friend the Resident, Calabar Province, but I look upon it in a somewhat different way. I have some doubts whether this House is the proper place to discuss such matters, but I would like to say this; that it would be expecting a little too much to expect that an amendment might be made in Select Committee which would interfere with accepted national rates of pay or central salary scales. We cannot yet have different conditions in different Regions merely by regional choice. The same Member raised the point that certain groups of Palm Produce traders have a grievance. I think I know what it is all about because I have heard the same old story for many years. It does not matter now what it is all about, whether it is the weights of casks, or what not, but let me say this, Sir, that there is at a later stage in this meeting of this House a certain Bill by which it is proposed to give a considerable degree of self-government to a certain industry—to wit, the palm produce industry. There is a certain body called the representative committee which deals with such problems and I think perhaps that may have been overlooked; it is rather a waste of time and paper to raise such petitions at a time when industrial self-government has arrived to settle the complaints. I often find, however, that those who talk most about it are slowest to recognise self-government when it comes.

So many Members, that it would be pointless to mention them individually, referred to this business of the constitutional powers of Select Committee. Well, I think I have said all I can say on that, Sir. I am looking at last year's printed debates but I am not falling, I hope, into the bad habit of quoting; on page 139 there is a record of what was said a year ago when the quotation from the Sessional Paper for the constitution was read. That is the authority, Sir. I have heard it said that the constitution may be reviewed some-day. It may be, Sir, that all sorts of things will be considered then. I do not know, but I hope it will not be all politics and nothing else but politics in the narrow sense. For the present there is the position and I can do no more about it.

you can have one, the most important one; the others are built for local convenience and are the responsibility of the Local Authority in the area. I am compelled to say that we cannot provide another £100,000 or so from the Regional Estimates to take over additional roads; we have not got it. Roads must be considered on their merits to see whether they fit the rule that they do form the main link between some headquarters, or town or a large collecting centre of produce to the rest of the communication system of the country, railway or other trunk road systems; if they do they are eligible for reclassification.

I mentioned, Sir, on a point of explanation during the debate that there was no present intention to move the Police Training Centre from Enugu to Ikeja. I do not wish to be accused of having misled the House in any way, and the point I wished to make is that the institution which we have here is going to remain here. Whether there will be separate institutions at Ikeja, or whether there will be changes in the methods of training of the Police is a different matter. The point is that what we have in Enugu is not going to be abandoned. The same speaker who raised that point also asked about the removal of Prison headquarters to Lagos. Yes, that is the intention at some distant date. So far it is an intention, which may, however, be changed, that Prison headquarters will be moved to Lagos. If it is more convenient that it should be in Lagos I see no reason for any heart breaks and I see no harm done to this region.

My friends, the Member for Commercial Interests, the First Member for the Onitsha Province and the Member for the Cameroons Province, all stressed the complete inadequacy of the Police Force. Every time one gets out of a train at night one is robbed and goes on being robbed until daylight and so on. Of course, I could not agree more. The Police Force is inadequate in strength at present. The First Member I mentioned said that it needs greater mobility and that it needs bringing up to date to meet modern requirements of a developing society. No doubt Members will have noticed that in Select Committee it is proposed to take steps in that direction; no doubt that move will be welcomed.

It has been mentioned by more than one Member how urgently the Uyaron bridge on the Oron road is in need of reconstruction. I do not think my friend the Deputy Director of Public Works would have any objection to our inserting this bridge in Appendix T at committee stage. If it is put down there it will be looked into and estimated, and we will see if we can afford to do anything about it at an early date. Let us put it down in Appendix T then it cannot be forgotten.

Onitsha Water Supply: Why cannot we use the Niger, asked the First Member for Onitsha Province. I must say I have felt the same. But the question was asked by the same Member in Finance

Committee and he has had a written reply. We cannot use the Niger because it is too expensive to make it clean. We could supply unlimited quantities of deadly poison but to be of service as a supply of potable water it would be too expensive. Can we utilize Native Authorities funds for local needs, he then asked. We need local industrialization, said the same Member. A certain Bill which will come before the House in a few days time will make provision for that. Then there was the Policeman who gets so wet and so hot at that traffic point in Onitsha that he hides round the corner; I think we can assure the Member we will deal with that and provide some protection, but after all such little things as this really need not wait for an important debate such as this.

I have come nearly to the end I think, Sir. I am sorry, Sir, I have not. There is still a matter of some considerable importance, which ties up with yet another. The dates of this meeting are most unfortunate. We cannot have it earlier because we cannot get the stuff ready earlier than we do. My friend, the Member for the Rivers Province, complained that he did not get the Estimates early enough. They were issued on the 30th October, and I cannot get the Estimates ready earlier than this; then we are expected to get the final Estimates to Lagos by the 6th January. But perhaps this is not a matter which cannot be adjusted, perhaps constitutional reforms will have something to do with finance too.

A most important matter, Sir, was that raised by my friends, the Member for Educational Interests and the Member for Ogoja Province who proposed there should be a Select Committee to consider means of raising regional revenue. I am unable to fall in with that suggestion at present, Sir, because we cannot, in fact, under the present arrangements, raise regional revenue. We raise revenue in the region, of course, but there is only one item, I think, over which we have any direct measure of control and that is the Capitation Tax. We could, I suppose, say to the Native Authorities: "give us another £100,000" and the Native Authorities would have £100,000 less, and would go backwards. Everything else is Nigerian wide revenue. Revenue is governed by Nigerian ordinances and it seems to me, Sir, a very difficult question to discuss how revenue might be raised on a regional basis. We could hardly have different rates for car licences, for example, from the Western Provinces. Such question as this may come up for consideration in the review of the constitution, but I do not think a Select Committee of the House could, for the moment, do much about it. I spoke about the Schedule II tax when I opened this debate because I was thinking how much could be done at that level, and, for the present, I should be glad to see some effort in that direction.

May I propose, Sir, that the Select Committee meets tomorrow morning in the Secretariat at 9.30.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question before this House is: "That the Estimates be referred to the Select Committee of the House, consisting of all the unofficial Members of the House together with the Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces as Chairman."

Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

The House will now adjourn until a time and date to be notified to Members later, that is when the Select Committee's Report is prepared.

The House adjourned at 5.35 p.m.

Debates in the Eastern House of Assembly

Monday, 20th December, 1948

Pursuant to notice the Members of the Eastern House of Assembly met in the Garrison Hall, Enugu, at 9.30 a.m. on Monday, the 20th of December, 1948.

PRESENT

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

The Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces,
Commander J. G. Pyke-Nott, R.N.

The Secretary, Eastern Provinces,
Commander S. E. Johnson, R.N.

The Resident, Owerri Province,
Mr J. S. Smith.

The Resident, Rivers Province,
Mr A. T. E. Marsh.

The Resident, Onitsha Province,
Mr V. K. Johnson.

The Resident, Calabar Province,
Mr C. J. Mayne.

The Acting Resident, Ogoja Province,
Mr J. G. Mackenzie.

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces,
Mr G. B. G. Chapman.

The Acting Deputy Director of Medical Services, Eastern Provinces,
Dr J. H. Pottinger.

The Deputy Director of Education, Eastern Provinces,
Mr C. T. Quinn-Young.

The Acting Deputy Director of Public Works, Eastern Provinces,
Mr E. Wall, M.C.

The Acting Senior Crown Counsel, Eastern Provinces,
Mr N. G. Hay.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Member for Urban Areas other than Port Harcourt,
Reverend O. Efiang, O.B.E.
- The First Provincial Member for the Cameroons Province,
Mr J. Manga Williams, O.B.E.
- The Member for Professional, Salaried and Wage-earning
Classes,
Mr E. N. Egbuna.
- The Member for African Commercial Interests,
Mr G. H. H. O'Dwyer.
- The First Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province,
Mr P. E. Chukwurah.
- The First Provincial Member for the Owerri Province,
Mr M. W. Ubani.
- The Provincial Member for the Ogoja Province,
Dr F. A. Ibiam.
- The First Provincial Member for the Calabar Province,
Mr Asuquo Okon.
- The Second Provincial Member for the Cameroons Province,
Galega, Fon of Bali.
- The Second Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province,
Mr C. D. Onyeama.
- The Member for Port Harcourt,
Mr L. R. Potts-Johnson.
- The Second Provincial Member for the Owerri Province,
Mr D. N. Achara.
- The Provincial Member for the Owerri (Rivers) Province,
Mr H. Bowari Brown.
- The Member for Educational Interests,
Mr A. Ikoku.
- The Second Provincial Member for the Calabar Province,
Mr Nyong Essien.

ABSENT

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Senior Resident, Cameroons Province,
Mr A. F. B. Bridges.
- The Deputy Director of Agriculture, Eastern Provinces,
Mr M. Park.

PRAYERS

At the request of the President, Reverend O. Efiang, O.B.E., the Member for Urban Areas other than Port Harcourt, opened the proceedings of the House with prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 15th of December, 1948, having been printed and circulated to the Members were taken as read and confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

The Secretary, Eastern Provinces:

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

Certificates of Urgency in respect of the following Motions:—

- (i) " Be it resolved: That arrangements be made for full public discussion throughout the Eastern Region on the working of the Constitution for the purpose of preparing evidence of the public views and wishes which will be required if and when enquiry is instituted by Select Committee of Legislative Council."
- (ii) " Be it resolved: That this House holds the view that the expenditure of public money on overseas scholarships derives its justification from the assumption that such scholars will in due course return to the country and help to enrich its life in various spheres and recommends to the Government that steps be taken to ensure by contract or otherwise that these scholars return to Nigeria on the completion of their courses."
- (iii) " Be it resolved: That this House, while approving regional administration of grants-in-aid of Educational and Medical Services, is opposed to the regionalisation of such grants on the grounds that such a step would tend to slow down the tempo of development in the more progressive regions."

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

Sir, I beg to lay on the table the following paper:—

Report of the Select Committee of the House appointed to consider the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1949-50.

QUESTIONS

NOTE.—Reply to Question No. 2 by the First Provincial Member for the Owerri Province is not yet ready.

MOTIONS

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

Sir, I beg to move the following:—

- " Be it resolved: That this House resolves itself into committee
- " to consider the Report of the Select Committee of the
- " House appointed to consider the Estimates of Expenditure
- " for the year 1949-50."

The Secretary, Eastern Provinces:

Sir, I beg to second.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question is that this House resolve itself into Committee to consider the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1949-50. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

The House is in committee.

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

Sir, in Select Committee seventy amendments to the Estimates were made as detailed in the schedule to the Report of the Select Committee, which has been circulated.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

If no Member wishes to speak I will put the question.

The question is that this Committee of the whole House accepts the Report of the Select Committee. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

The House will now resume.

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

Sir, I beg to report that the Report of the Select Committee passed through the House without further amendments.

I beg to move the following:—

"Be it resolved: That His Excellency the Governor be advised
"to approve the Estimates of Expenditure as amended in
"committee."

The Secretary, Eastern Provinces:

Sir, I beg to second.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question is that His Excellency the Governor be advised to approve the Estimates of Expenditure for the Services of the Eastern Region during the year 1949-50. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

Sir, I beg to move the following:—

"Be it resolved: That the Deputy Director of Agriculture,
"Eastern Provinces, be authorised to expend upon the
"following purposes:—

Nigerian Cocoa Survey (including the eradication of
Swollen Shoot);

Improvement of the quality of Cocoa;
 Long-term Rehabilitation and new planting of Cocoa;
 " the several sums set out in the Estimates laid before this
 " House, such expenditure to be made in anticipation of
 " reimbursement from funds made available by the Nigeria
 " Cocoa Marketing Board."

This resolution authorises expenditure, Sir, referred to in Appendix " U " of the Estimates which were considered in Select Committee.

The Secretary, Eastern Provinces:

Sir, I beg to second.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

If no Member wishes to speak I will put the question.

The question is that this motion be adopted. Will those in favour say " Aye " and those to the contrary " No ".

The " Ayes " have it.

The Member for Urban Areas other than Port Harcourt (Reverend O. Efiang, O.B.E.):

Sir, I beg to move the following:—

" Be it resolved: That this House do hereby appoint Mr A
 " Ikoku to be a Member of the proposed Central Board of
 " Education as constituted by section 5 (1) of the
 " Education Ordinance, 1948."

The Member for Professional, Salaried and Wage-earning Classes (Mr E. N. Egbuna):

Your Honour, I second that.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question is that this motion be adopted. Will those in favour say " Aye " and those to the contrary " No ".

The " Ayes " have it.

The Member for Urban Areas other than Port Harcourt (Reverend O. Efiang, O.B.E.):

Sir, I beg to move the following:—

" Be it resolved: That this House do hereby appoint the
 " following to be Members of the Regional Board of the
 " Eastern Provinces as constituted by section 11 (2) of the
 " Education Ordinance, 1948:—

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| (1) Mr A. Ikoku | (4) Mrs V. E. Boyle |
| (2) Dr F. A. Ibiam | (5) Professor E. Ita |
| (3) Mr Asuquo Okon | (6) Mr E. Egbuna." |

The First Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province (Mr P. E. Chukwurah):

Sir, I beg to second.

The Deputy Director of Education, Eastern Provinces:

On a point of information I should like to know what University has conferred a chair on Mr Ita or in what other way Mr Ita is entitled to the title "Professor"?

The Member for Urban Areas other than Port Harcourt (Reverend O. Efiog, O.B.E.):

Your Honour, the position is that we were in a position to elect or nominate a Member from the Eastern House of Assembly or outside it who is a proprietor of a private school, and Professor Ita's name came up as a proprietor of a private school, and therefore we selected him.

The Deputy Director of Education, Eastern Provinces:

I am not objecting to the nomination in any way, but am merely wanting to know how he came by the title "Professor". I think it is a misnomer. I have no objection if that title is changed to "Mister".

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

Would the House be satisfied, subject to it being established satisfactorily that Professor Ita is not a Professor, to change his title to "Mister" Ita?

The Member for Professional, Salaried and Wage-earning Classes (Mr E. N. Egbuna):

On a point of order, Sir, the Deputy Director of Education actually wanted to have information as to what qualifications Professor Ita had. We have not been told that he is not entitled to be so described. I think it is quite clear that for years back this gentleman has used the title of Professor, and nobody in the Education Department has questioned it, and now that we have invited him as an outside member to join the regional Board, it is only fair to give him the title by which he has been known. It is only polite to do that, and I think we should just leave it at that.

The Second Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province (Mr C. D. Onyeama):

Would it meet the case if the word "Professor" were enclosed in inverted commas?

The Deputy Director of Education, Eastern Provinces:

The word "Professor" in English educational circles has a connotation which means that you hold a chair in some University. In other countries it has other meanings, and I think we should keep to the British meaning and not to the meaning of other countries where I am told that sometimes people calling themselves "tonorial Artists" are described as professors.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

I think the House is only concerned in descriptions contained in the Minutes of this House, and if it is the wish of this House that Professor Ita be described in the Minutes as Mr Ita, that will have no effect on what he is called outside the House. Is that acceptable to the House? (Aye).

The question is that this motion be adopted. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

The Member for Urban Areas other than Port Harcourt (Reverend O. Efiog, O.B.E.):

Sir, I beg to move the following:—

"Be it resolved: That this House do hereby ratify the
 "nomination of Messrs G. H. H. O'Dwyer and J. N.
 "Nwachuku to be members of the Board of Agriculture
 "as constituted by section 4 (1) of the Agriculture
 "Ordinance, 1948."

The First Provincial Member for the Owerri Province (Mr M. W. Ubani):

Sir, I beg to second.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

If no Member wishes to speak, I will put the question. The question is that this motion be adopted. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

The Member for Urban Areas other than Port Harcourt (Reverend O. Efiog, O.B.E.):

Sir, I beg to move:—

"Be it resolved: That this House do hereby ratify the
 "nomination of Messrs G. H. H. O'Dwyer, E. U,
 "Eronini, L. N. Mbanefo and J. N. Nwachuku, to be
 "members of the Shadow Representative Committee of the
 "Palm Produce Marketing Organisation as described in
 "Sessional Paper No. 18 of 1948."

The Second Provincial Member for the Cameroons Province (Galega, Fon of Bali):

Sir, I beg to second.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question is that this motion be adopted. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

The Acting Senior Crown Counsel, Eastern Provinces:

I agree it is the Richards Constitution which is being implied. But the motion can only refer to one constitution, and I do not think the wording needs alteration.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

Is the Member satisfied?

The Provincial Member for the Owerri (Rivers) Province (Mr H. Bowari Brown):

Yes, Sir.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question before this House is that this motion be adopted. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

The Member for Educational Interests (Mr A. Ikoku):

Sir, I rise to move the following resolution standing in my name in the Order Paper.

"Be it resolved: That this House holds the view that the
"expenditure of public money on overseas scholarships
"derives its justification from the assumption that such
"scholars will in due course return to the country and help
"to enrich its life in various spheres and recommends to
"the Government that steps be taken to ensure by contract
"or otherwise that these scholars return to Nigeria on the
"completion of their courses."

This is hardly a contentious resolution, Your Honour. Human development is one aspect of our political development and when we send boys and girls overseas I take it everybody agrees we send them to further their studies in Europe and elsewhere and to return to this country to develop the country in various walks of life. I want to dispel misunderstanding at the start. I am not implying that everybody who wins a scholarship should eventually come back to his old profession, or in fact, come back to his old sphere, and if anybody was recommended by a voluntary agency he is quite entitled to change his mind as to whether he comes back to that voluntary agency at all. I think the overall view should be brought home that we spend public money on people so that they will come back to the country and enrich its life. Some distinction has been drawn between open scholarships and other types of scholarships; but I am referring to all types, particularly to open scholarships, because I do not see any natural division between open scholarships and other types of scholarships so far as public money is spent on either.

Sir, it may be asked "Why the motion?" The answer is there is a noticeable tendency for young men and women who happen to go overseas on our scholarships to want to remain there on the completion of their courses and if it is the wish of the House, I would like to recommend to Government that these young fellows be bonded to return to this country on the completion of their courses.

The Member for Professional, Salaried and Wage-earning Classes (Mr E. N. Egbuna):

Sir, I beg to second.

The Secretary, Eastern Provinces:

Sir, I am instructed to say that there is no desire to obstruct this motion, but that official Members will abstain from voting.

The Second Provincial Member for the Calabar Province (Mr Nyong Essien):

Sir, I rise to a point of order. Each Member in this House has got the right to vote, or not to vote, voluntarily. None of us on either side of this House should be prejudiced against his vote, before he votes or abstains. Therefore, the announcement of abstention made by the Secretary, Eastern Provinces, is prejudicial to voters and against the right of voluntary voting or abstention. That announcement, by its nature, compels the official Members of this House to abstain. No Member of this House should be held by the nose to do the bidding of the holder. Such announcement is insult to the intelligence and goodwill of this House. Therefore, the announcer is unparliamentary and out of order.

The Secretary, Eastern Provinces:

On a point of explanation, Sir, may I say that this is a question which affects general Nigerian policy and that the action proposed for the official Members will in no way stop this motion from finally going to Legislative Council.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

Is the Member satisfied?

The Second Provincial Member for the Calabar Province (Mr Nyong Essien):

No. Your Honour. I am engaged with votes. The unofficial Members' votes, the official Members' votes, and in fact, votes of the whole of Nigeria. If official Members do not agree with a motion there is no reason why they should not vote against it rather than discourage the whole House. I maintain to refrain from voting is discouragement, Sir.

The Member for Educational Interests (Mr A. Ikoku):

Your Honour, I rise to move the second motion standing in my name in the Order Paper.

“ Be it resolved: That this House, while approving regional
“ administration of grants-in-aid of educational and
“ medical services, is opposed to the regionalisation of
“ such grants on the grounds that such a step would tend
“ to slow down the tempo of development in the more
“ progressive regions.”

I beg leave, Sir, to discuss this motion a little at length. In the first place I want to make it clear that we are in no way opposed to regional administration of grants-in-aid. As a matter of fact there should be nothing else for grants-in-aid have got to be administered regionally and provincially, and in the long distant future through the local education authorities.

I discovered, since speaking about this in the Legislative Council debates on the Education Bill last August that there is some confusion in some quarters and I am anxious to make the point quite clear. Secondly I am not opposed to any supplementary educational developments if it is for the Northern Provinces, in fact I supported my Director at Kaduna last March when the motion was made for large sums to be devoted to development in the Northern Provinces educationally quite over and above the already accepted development vote. I shall be prepared in the future, as far as lies in my power to continue to support such measures.

In the light of these two observations, Sir, I should like what I say to be understood. Mr Phillipson made a survey which has already gone down to history as, one of those classical documents we have learned to expect from him, and it might not be out of place to refer to canons on grants-in-aid administration laid down by him. On page 71 of his report, section 42, quoting literally, he says: “ The spirit of local initiative and self-help should be conserved.” That is the first requirement of grants-in-aid, and it is not only an expression of financial wisdom, but a restatement of the age-long wisdom of Hercules helping only those willing to help themselves. We must have an earnest of the peoples’ desire for education and willingness to contribute towards it before the central Government can vote money for the work. In other words, there must be a desire and an achievement before Government could spend the money, because this matter of education is extremely expensive, and so Mr Phillipson makes a big point when he says that the spirit of local initiative and self-help should be conserved. In the East, and to a large extent in the Western Provinces it has been the habit of tribal unions, community organizations and other institutions started by the people to build

schools, churches, maternity centres, hospitals and so on and they have sometimes asked for some assistance buttressed by the fact that they are willing to help themselves.

A second point of Mr Phillipson's is found on page 72, paragraph 42, sub-paragraph 10 when he says: "grants-in-aid should be paid concurrently with services rendered." That also takes into account the fact that grants-in-aid or central funds, are merely in aid; in aid of actual local government or voluntary agency expenditure. They are not supposed to be grants paid to help local government or other agencies to accumulate surplus reserves in the hope of future expenses.

Now, in his report Mr Phillipson realizes quite fully that the Southern Provinces, taken as a whole, have in the past been contributing large sums quite voluntarily towards education and he has laid down in Appendix "O", table IV, this essential condition as something he wants to see preserved namely that the Southern Provinces should contribute more than the Northern Provinces towards their schools. Well, if it were not wrong to question a fact already history, one might attempt to question this. We do not intend in the slightest to shrink from our obligation to assist our schools and medical services and do accept in good spirit the table of zonal contributions which expects much more from us than from the Northern Provinces. Under the law from the 1st January the sparsely populated sections of the country are allowed even to contribute a good deal less than their zonal contributions, the balance being contributed by central Government, by way of grants-in-aid that should have repercussions favouring the North rather than the South in general.

I am in entire agreement with grants-in-aid, being classified as Nigerian, not regional expenditure. Mr Phillipson makes that point, and with your permission I would like to quote him a little extensively. He makes that point very clearly on pages 69 and 70 of his report. First of all he asks the question; "Should grants be regionalized or should they be central Government's responsibility. He says it should be central Government for the alternative would be inconceivable. I quote from Mr Phillipson:—

"But what is the alternative? It would be to say in effect to the Eastern Region (and possibly to some other Region at a future date). 'Here are the educational grant-in-aid regulations: apply them if your regional obligations permit but otherwise disregard them in whole or part according to the extent of your available resources.' Such an attitude would, in my view, be indefensible for it would strike a blow, possibly a destructive blow, at the educational fabric which has been largely achieved by the efforts and at the cost of the people of the Region concerned. Grants-in-Aid are necessarily the response by the state to local effort. Local authorities in the United Kingdom which have

been enterprising in the educational field naturally attract a greater amount of financial assistance from central funds. It seems to me almost inconceivable that the Government should allow the educational achievement of the past to suffer possibly irreparable damage by denying to a particular region the benefits which that achievement attracts under a national scheme or that it should require a particular part of the country to halt in the educational race partly because under different constitutional arrangements it made good progress."

These are Mr Phillipson's own words, and it is hardly necessary for me to amplify them.

Your Honour, I beg to move.

The Provincial Member for the Ogoja Province (Dr F. A. Ibiam):

Sir, in seconding this motion, I would like to beg leave of you to make a few observations on this matter. My friend, the mover of this motion, has in eloquent terms put before this Assembly irrefutable reasons why regionalization of grants-in-aid for education and medical services is a bad policy and therefore is not conducive to the progress and development of these essential services. I would like to point out, Sir, and stress the fact that this point was mooted somewhere in the Legislative Council Select Committee and we were opposed to this measure. When we went away from the country and returned we found that this measure has in fact been adopted by Government. I want to say, Sir, that we deprecate this action on the part of Government. We say the Regional Houses should take steps and give decisions on matters which are of prime importance to the development of this country, and by regionalizing grants-in-aid for educational and medical services, you are certainly retarding the advancement of the people in this land. Education, Sir, is one of the crying needs of this country and people everywhere in Nigeria at present are making every effort and attempt to acquire the ordinary primary elementary education, and if this policy is adopted it would mean an impediment to this social progress.

The same argument may be advanced for Medical Services. I have called the attention of the Government, not only here but in other places, to the present standard of medical services—this country and anybody, Sir, would agree with me that we are far from reaching the real need for medical services. In many parts of the country people have not got medical aid, and in other places where they have it, they have not the means to make full use of this service. We ask for hospitals to be established in the areas of the country which are highly populated and also within the reach of many people in the country, and if you regionalize grants-in-aid to help these services you are doing incalculable wrong to the people of Nigeria.

I wish to add, Sir, that I stand on the side of the mover of this motion, and I would like to state that the adoption of this policy of regionalization of grants-in-aid to medical and educational services should be looked into by Government and carefully considered.

Sir, I beg to second.

The Deputy Director of Education, Eastern Provinces:

Sir, I do not either support or oppose this motion—this resolution—but I think there are one or two things which might as well be brought to the attention of this House in connection with what the Member for Educational Interests quoted at some length—the Phillipson Report. I should like to stress that this report is merely a report, excellent though it is. It is generally acknowledged to be a very fine piece of work, but it is a report; it is not necessarily law, and Government did not bind itself to accept any or all of it. It has, as a matter of fact, accepted a very great deal.

I should also like to quote verbatim from the very same paragraph which the Member for Educational Interests quoted, except that he started rather later on in the paragraph.

“Certain services and works are classified as regional, while others are classified as Nigerian, that is services and works of value to the country as a whole. Education has been classified as a regional service and in general it could hardly be classified otherwise.”

That is how this particular paragraph in the Phillipson Report commences.

A great deal has been said about regionalization from the administrative point of view, and I cannot see how you can have funds administered regionally and provided centrally. The alternative to regionalization of grants-in-aid is that the funds should appear in the Nigerian Estimates and the Director of Education should allocate them to me as and when he thinks fit. That would mean that this House, Sir, would have no control whatsoever over the administration of these funds. It would mean that the Standing Committee on Finance could do nothing about it if they felt that not enough money was being spent on grants-in-aid.

I think the matter should be considered carefully by this House when it comes to voting on this resolution.

The Secretary, Eastern Provinces:

Sir, in this case I am again instructed to say there is no desire to obstruct the motion in this House, but that the official Members will abstain from voting.

would have no control. I think, Sir, that it is a question of our Regional Deputy Director knowing what he wants and putting up a claim for it. I dare say that this point is important—in the case of too small an allocation being made. I think the answer to that would be to treat the grants-in-aid vote as special revenue. I borrow that from my friend, the Financial Secretary. If the grants-in-aid vote is treated as special revenue for each region my contention would be met and if that is correct I would be quite prepared to accept an amendment to that effect, Sir.

I do not agree, I am sorry, with my friends the Member for Salaried and Wage-earning Classes and the Member for the Rivers Province that the matter should be shelved for the moment. The matter came up in August before we left the country and by the time we came back a decision had been taken. How are you going to leave a matter over on which Government has taken action? If the matter were still in debate we could shelve it on the understanding that the central Government would review its decision, but it is not a matter we can very well shelve and I do not accept the suggestion that it is a matter on which action might be delayed.

I do not know if it is proper for us to ask the Secretary, Finance, if he would accept or recommend an amendment, but if that is proper procedure I would allow an amendment to my motion taking in his suggestion that grants-in-aid should be treated as special revenue for each Region.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

Is it the pleasure of the House that the mover of this motion should include an amendment in it now? Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

Can you give us the exact amendment?

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

Would it be permissible for me to make a suggestion?

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

Yes.

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

I would suggest that when we come to the words "is opposed to the regionalization of such grants" *add* "unless these grants are provided as special revenue" and then carry on with "unless such grants are provided as special revenue on the regional budget."

The Member for Educational Interests (Mr A. Ikoku):

I wonder if it would be acceptable to leave the motion as it stands and *add* at the end the following words ". . . . and recommends to His Excellency that the amounts of grants-in-aid on such Services be treated as special revenue".

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The first question that I put to the House is the question that this motion as it stands on the Order Paper of the day be amended at the instance of the mover of the motion by the addition of the words: " and recommends to His Excellency that the grants-in-aid on such Services be treated as special revenue "

Is that favourable. Will those in favour say " Aye " and those to the contrary " No ".

The " Ayes " have it.

The question is that this motion as amended in the House be adopted. Will those in favour say " Aye " and those to the contrary " No ".

Would the Member care to have a Division?

The Member for Educational Interests (Mr A. Ikoku):

Yes, Your Honour.

DIVISION

| <i>For</i> | <i>Against</i> |
|--|----------------|
| The Second Provincial Member for the Calabar Province | Nil |
| The Member for Educational Interests | |
| The Provincial Member for the Owerri (Rivers) Province. | |
| The Second Provincial Member for the Owerri Province | |
| The Member for Port Harcourt | |
| The Second Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province | |
| The Second Provincial Member for the Cameroons Province | |
| The First Provincial Member for the Calabar Province | |
| The Provincial Member for the Ogoja Province | |
| The First Provincial Member for the Owerri Province | |
| The First Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province | |
| The Member for African Commercial Interests | |
| The Member for Professional, Salaried and Wage-earning Classes | |
| The First Provincial Member for the Cameroons Province | |
| The Member for Urban Areas other than Port Harcourt | |

The following Members abstained from voting:—

- The Acting Senior Crown Counsel, Eastern Provinces.
- The Deputy Director of Public Works, Eastern Provinces.
- The Deputy Director of Education, Eastern Provinces.
- The Deputy Director of Medical Services, Eastern Provinces.
- The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces.
- The Resident, Ogoja Province.
- The Resident, Calabar Province.
- The Resident, Onitsha Province.
- The Resident, Rivers Province.
- The Resident, Owerri Province.
- The Secretary, Eastern Provinces.
- The Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The result of the Division is "Ayes" 15 votes. Abstained 12.

The "Ayes" have it.

BILLS

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

The Secretary, Eastern Provinces:

Sir, I beg to move the following:—

"Be it resolved: That this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that the Bill entitled 'An Ordinance to amend the Employment of Ex-servicemen Ordinance, 1945' is acceptable in principle."

The objects and reasons as set out in the Bill and particularly paragraph 2 thereof shew clearly the aim of this amendment, which is confined to sub-section (b) only of the amending clause, sub-section (a) being already incorporated in the existing Ordinance.

It is obviously necessary, Sir, to put a term to registration of able-bodied ex-servicemen who have enlisted and have been discharged since the war, particularly as the names of ex-servicemen with war service still appear on the register. It is now over three years since the close of hostilities.

It will be observed, Sir, that notwithstanding the provision of a closing date for such registration, power is given to the Commissioner of Labour to register in general or in particular cases of able-bodied ex-servicemen who would normally be excluded from registration. This is a necessary proviso, as there may well be found at some future date a need for employees in certain trades, or indeed for general employment.

Finally, Sir, I would draw attention to the fact that this amendment in no way affects the present position regarding disabled ex-servicemen.

Sir, I commend this Bill to the House.

The Acting Deputy Director of Public Works, Eastern Provinces:

Sir, I beg to second.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question before the House is that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that this Bill shortly entitled "An Ordinance to amend the Employment of Ex-servicemen Ordinance, 1945" is acceptable in principle.

Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

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

The House is in committee.

Enactment.

Clauses 1 and 2.

Title.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The House will now resume.

The Secretary, Eastern Provinces:

Sir, I beg to report that the Bill entitled "An Ordinance to amend the Employment of Ex-servicemen Ordinance, 1945" passed through Committee without amendment.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question before the House is that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that the Bill entitled "An Ordinance to amend the Employment of Ex-servicemen Ordinance, 1945" is acceptable. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

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

The Resident, Rivers Province:

Sir, I beg to move the following:—

"Be it resolved: That this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that the Bill entitled 'An Ordinance further to amend the Public Holidays Ordinance' is acceptable in principle."

This merely makes an addition to the Schedule of Public Holidays of the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad (Id el Maulud), and I commend it to the House.

The Acting Regional Deputy Director of Medical Services:

Sir, I beg to second.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question before the House is that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that this Bill is acceptable in principle. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

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

The House is in committee.

Title.

Enactment.

Clauses 1 and 2.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The House will now resume.

The Resident, Rivers Province:

Sir, I beg to report that a Bill for an Ordinance further to amend the Public Holidays Ordinance passed through Committee with no amendment.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question before the House is that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that this Bill is acceptable to this House. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

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

The Resident, Calabar Province:

Sir, I rise to move the following:—

"Be it resolved: That this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that a Bill entitled 'An Ordinance to prohibit the use of Manillas as Currency' is acceptable in principle."

This Bill, Sir, repeals the Manilla Currency (Protectorate) Ordinance of 1919, under which by an Order in Council an order was made to prohibit the use of Manillas by certain persons.

The Ordinance, Sir, by making the use of manillas as currency illegal is designed to bring to a final close the Government's redemption of the manilla which commenced this October. Let us consider the points in order, Sir. There is the definition of the prohibition of the use of manillas as currency, together with the penalties for the infringement of such prohibition. Then there is the legal quantity which may be claimed as personal possessions, together with the infringement penalties. The next section allows for the disposal of any manillas seized as unlawful property, and finally this Bill allows for the repeal of the Manilla Currency (Protectorate) Ordinance.

Sir, this Bill appears to me to be necessary in order that Government's policy of redemption should not be abused. The Bill appears to me to be non-controversial, and I commend its acceptance to the House.

The Secretary, Eastern Provinces:

Sir, I beg to second.

The Member for African Commercial Interests (Mr G. H. H. O'Dwyer):

Your Honour, in rising to support this Bill I just have one or two observations to make. The Ordinance is intended to prohibit the use of manillas as currency, but to disallow the possession of manillas, which as everybody knows is the custom of the people in the East for the preservation of their ceremonies, is not good.

Clause 2 says:

“ Any person who—

- (a) gives or tenders manillas in payment for goods supplied or in satisfaction of any debt; or
- (b) accepts manillas in payment for goods supplied or in satisfaction of any debt; or
- (c) sells or supplies manillas to any person, knowing or having reason to believe that the same will be used as currency

shall be liable to a fine of one hundred pounds or to six months imprisonment or to both such fine and imprisonment.”

I do not quite agree that there should be any restriction on anybody possessing manillas in as much as he does not tender them as currency.

The Provincial Member for the Owerri (Rivers) Province (Mr H. Bowari Brown):

I know that there are millions of manillas under ground, either buried for storage purposes or for burial ceremonies in the olden days. There is no doubt that it will be impossible for those in possession of such manillas to get them all up between now and March for exchange, so I am asking for a point of information.

The Second Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province (Mr C. D. Onyeama):

Government is doing everything possible to disseminate the information to the whole public that manillas are being redeemed by Government. If after that anybody should keep manillas, or know where there are manillas and should take no steps to bring them out and redeem them now, I think we should not exercise our mind as to what would happen if somebody about two months later discovers a box full of manillas in the ground. I think he would have no claim to any compensation nor could he claim redemption. His duty would be to surrender the manillas to the nearest Government authority, and if he should fail to do so and should retain them surreptitiously for the purpose of selling them, I do not see any reason why he should not then be exposed to the full penalties provided in the Ordinance.

The Resident, Calabar Province:

Sir, I would like to assure the House that the people have been notified time and time again that the period of redemption will end at the end of March, and there are still three months ahead until the end of March, for the people to exchange their manillas.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question is that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that the Bill for "An Ordinance to prohibit the use of Manillas as Currency" is acceptable in principle. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

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

The House is in committee.

Enactment.

Clauses 1 and 2.

Clauses 3 and 4.

Title.

The Provincial Member for the Owerri (Rivers) Province (Mr H. Bowari Brown):

I was one of the people who pressed the Government to abolish the use of manillas in our area, and I was extremely pleased when they voted £10,000 for the redemption of manillas, so I supported the Bill with all my heart, but my point is this. Another thing has been made clear by my friend the law officer here. If a man comes along in his area and finds that at the end of March he has some manillas that he did not know about before, whether there will be any penalty imposed upon him for having them in

his possession. He has a reasonable excuse. He did not know about them. It is not a question of getting them exchanged. Will there be any penalty imposed on anyone who discovers manillas later on? The question of dumping them may arise but there should be no penalty imposed on such unfortunate discoverer or possessor. Otherwise I support the Bill with all my heart. I want the manillas to go, even now.

The Acting Senior Crown Counsel, Eastern Provinces:

If a man kept manillas indefinitely I think it would be an offence, but he would not be convicted if he handed them over to the authorities within a reasonable time.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question is that clauses 3 and 4 stand as part of the Bill. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

Clause 5.

The Second Provincial Member for the Owerri Province (Mr D. N. Achara):

Your Honour, when I visited some parts of the Bende District where people use manillas in paying bride price the question asked everywhere in that district is this. Suppose a marriage contracted before the abolition of manillas dissolves now, how is the bride price paid by the husband to be determined since people used to pay the bride price in manillas?

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

I am not quite certain what the Member is speaking about. We are in Committee to take the Bill clause by clause. We cannot discuss a question about a matter which is not there. I think the Member should have brought this up earlier.

The Second Provincial Member for the Owerri Province (Mr D. N. Achara):

I am seeking for information about the Bill. If I had been allowed I should have finished.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

I am not quite certain what the position of the Member is. Surely he understood the Bill before he came to the House.

The Second Provincial Member for the Owerri Province (Mr D. N. Achara):

A question was put to me that I could not answer, and I came here to find out the answer.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

Possibly the House will be prepared to give you indulgence in the matter and allow you to put the question now. Is that the wish of the House? (Aye).

The Second Provincial Member for the Owerri Province (Mr D. N. Achara):

We used to pay bride price in manillas. Suppose a marriage was contracted when the manilla was in use, and now that the use of the manilla is illegal, suppose such a marriage dissolves, how is the bride price paid in manillas to be assessed?

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

If I may inform the Member that has no part whatsoever in this Bill. The Bill does not deal with bride prices or matters of that sort at all. That will be a matter for the Courts in due course.

The House will now resume.

The Resident, Calabar Province:

Sir, I beg to report that a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to Prohibit the use of Manillas as Currency" passed through committee without amendment.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question before the House is that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that this Bill is acceptable to the House. Will those in favour say "Aye" and 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 Acting Senior Crown Counsel, Eastern Provinces:

Sir, I rise to move a resolution that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that the 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" is acceptable in principle. The reasons for this Bill are set out at length in the preamble and in the Acting Attorney-General's statement of the Objects and Reasons. Between the operative dates, no officer was authorised by the Governor under the Royal West African Frontier Force (Nigeria Regiment) Ordinance, to convene Courts-Martial or to confirm the findings and sentences of such Courts-Martial. It is therefore necessary to validate such proceedings in this respect and to provide an indemnity for the officers concerned, who have acted in good faith. I am sure this House will endorse the desirability of such a measure. Your Honour, I beg to move.

The Resident, Onitsha Province:

Sir, I beg to second.

The Second Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province (Mr C. D. Onyeama):

I rise to oppose the motion. What has happened here is that some unauthorised persons in the military after the war decided to have a Court-Martial. I think, Sir, it is well known that nobody can plead ignorance of the law, and in this case these officers purported to act under a Nigerian Ordinance. If they did not seek to inform themselves of their duties under this Ordinance, if they took no legal opinion, and if acting under this Ordinance, or pretending to act under this Ordinance, they sentenced some people to imprisonment, they cannot now seek the support of this House for something which is manifestly illegal and illegally deprives the subject of the King of his liberty.

Your Honour, I feel it my duty to say this Bill is obnoxious, and I have no intention whatsoever of supporting it.

The Acting Senior Crown Counsel, Eastern Provinces:

Your Honour, with reference to the remarks made by the Second Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province, I would point out that in sub-section 2 of clause 2 of the Bill it reads: "No legal proceedings whatsoever shall lie against any such officer solely on the ground that he convened such Court-Martial or confirmed the findings and sentences of such Court-Martial without authority in that behalf, if at the time he convened such Court-Martial or confirmed such findings and sentences, as the case may be, he believed in good faith that he had authority in that behalf".

The officers concerned, if they are to be protected must have acted in good faith, and therefore if there are any tyrannical methods which my friend alleges may have occurred the officer will not be covered.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question before the House is that this Bill is acceptable in principle to this House. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

Does the Member wish to press for a Division.

The Second Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province (Mr C. D. Onyeama):

Yes, Sir.

provision exists in the United Kingdom Legislation. Members of this House will appreciate the value of conferences in paving the way to international understanding and can encourage their venue in Nigeria by approving this measure for diplomatic immunity of outside delegates.

Clause 4 purports to delete paragraph 3 of part 2 of the Schedule and substitute a paragraph with similar meaning.

It was considered desirable when originally drafting this paragraph to follow the wording of the exemption given by section 9 (1) (b) of the Income Tax Ordinance, 1943. The Secretary of State has however advised that it would be preferable to adhere to the United Kingdom wording as set out in the clause.

The Secretary, Eastern Provinces:

Sir, I beg to second.

The Second Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province (Mr C. D. Onyeama):

I support this Bill in principle, but I would like to point out to my friend the Acting Senior Crown Counsel that when we were in England for a conference we certainly were not immune from the laws of that country.

The Acting Senior Crown Counsel, Eastern Provinces:

You did not go as a representative of His Majesty the King.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question before this House is that this Bill is acceptable in principle. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

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

The House is in Committee.

Enactment.

Clauses 1 and 2.

Clauses 3 and 4.

Title.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The House will now resume.

The Acting Senior Crown Counsel, Eastern Provinces:

I beg to report that a Bill entitled "An Ordinance further to amend the Diplomatic Privileges (Extension) Ordinance, 1947" passed through committee without amendment.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question is that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that this Bill is acceptable to this House. Will those in favour say "Aye" and 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, Eastern Provinces:

Sir, I beg to move the following:—

"Be it resolved: That this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that the Bill entitled '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' is acceptable in principle."

Sir, I would like to say at the start that there is nothing sinister in this Bill; there is no suggestion in this Bill that it will help the infiltration of ex-Palestine Civil Servants into the Civil Service of Nigeria. As stated in the Objects and Reasons to this Bill, the termination of the Palestine Mandate necessitates the winding up of the Palestine Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund which will normally result in the return of contributions to contributors to the fund in the form of a lump sum for the contributions they have put in.

This Bill, Sir, enables officers appointed to the Nigerian Service who hitherto contributed to the Palestine counterpart of the Nigerian Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund to pay in such lump sums to the latter fund if they so wish and thereby to some extent regain the lost benefits.

I would only add, Sir, that the Nigerian Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund is a self-contributory scheme.

I do not think there is anything in this Bill that could be found objectionable, and I commend it to the House.

The Resident, Ogoja Province:

Sir, I beg to second.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question before the House is that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that the Bill entitled "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" is acceptable in principle. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

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

The House is in committee.

Enactment.

Clauses 1 and 2.

Clauses 3 and 4.

Title.

The House will now resume.

The Secretary, Eastern Provinces:

Sir, I beg to report that the 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", passed through committee without amendment.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question is that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that this Bill is acceptable. Will those in favour say "Aye" and 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, Eastern Provinces:

Sir, I beg to move the following:—

"Be it resolved: That this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that the Bill entitled 'An Ordinance further to amend the Waterworks Ordinance' is acceptable in principle".

This Bill, Sir, is an essential health measure to enable regulations to be made to prevent pollution of reservoirs and waterworks at the source of supply of water for public consumption. I do not think there will be any serious opposition, and I need not take up the time of the House on this very short Bill. Sir, I beg to move.

The Deputy Director of Education, Eastern Provinces:

Sir, I beg to second.

The First Provincial Member for the Owerri Province (Mr M. W. Ubani):

Your Honour, I wish to ask a few questions for explanation on what this Bill is for and what it means. When I say this I mean whether it will refer to our people who have been fishing on the water. Because, if this happens some people who had gained their living by fishing will no longer be able to do so if they cannot take their canoes on the water, if there is a prohibition.

The Acting Senior Crown Counsel, Eastern Provinces:

Sir, Waterworks are defined in the principal Ordinance under section 2 as:—

“ Waterworks ” means all reservoirs, dams, weirs, tanks, cisterns, tunnels, filter beds, conduits, aqueducts, mains, pipes, fountains, sluices, valves, pumps, steam engines, and all other structures or appliances used or constructed for the storage, conveyance, supply, measurement or regulation of water, which are used or have been constructed by or on behalf of the Government and are the property thereof, or which shall hereafter be used or constructed by the Government or by the Water Authority.”

Apparently it is fairly comprehensive with regard to reservoirs and waterworks and dams and channels, but I do not think it will take in the swamps coming into these supplies, but it seems that measures will have to be taken to protect these also. Under section 18 the Governor in Council can make regulations with Native Authorities to meet individual cases and if people were fishing in reservoirs in a proper manner there would seem to be no objection in the world to this, as I understand it is one method of fishing. Action would have to be taken to prevent pollution of the water.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question before the House is that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that the Bill entitled “ An Ordinance further to amend the Waterworks Ordinance ” is acceptable in principle. Will those in favour say “ Aye ” and those to the contrary “ No ”.

The “ Ayes ” have it.

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

The House is in committee.

Enactment.

Clauses 1 and 2.

Title.

The House will now resume,

The Acting Deputy Director of Public Works, Eastern Provinces:

I beg to report that the Bill for an Ordinance to amend the Waterworks Ordinance passed through committee without amendment.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question is that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that this Bill is acceptable to this House. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

**A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE
MARKETING AND EXPORT OF NIGERIAN OIL PALM
PRODUCE AND FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH**

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

Sir, I beg to move the following:—

"Be it resolved: That this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that the Bill entitled 'An Ordinance to make provision for the Marketing and Export of Nigerian Oil Palm Produce and for matters connected therewith' is acceptable in principle."

More than eighteen months ago, Sir, I introduced the Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board Ordinance to this House and then the hopes were expressed that something would be done on similar lines for the oil palm industry. This Bill which I now have the honour and pleasure to present is the fulfilment of these hopes. To say, Sir, that it has risen from the Cocoa Marketing Bill would be correct, but it would be a gross understatement of the merits of this Bill to say that it has followed the Cocoa Bill in its form and in its conclusions. Not only is the oil palm industry different from the cocoa industry in very many respects, but the interests and needs of the areas of their operation are also very different.

Before any steps were taken to draft this Bill a great deal of thought was given to these needs and at a very early stage conversations were held with the unofficial Members of this House. I shall later, Sir, be referring to the constitution of the three bodies which take their part in the organization, and it would come as a very considerable surprise to me if my friends, the unofficial Members did not recognise the identity with the proposals which they themselves freely made as long ago as last April; proposals which can only be described as providing the highest measure of self-government within the industry. That, Sir, is, I think, the key-note of this Bill: it provides in a manner, which I believe to be unique, for self-government.

The second feature of this Bill, Sir, which calls for special attention is the provision for development in the interests of the producer and the areas of production—not petty developments,

Sir, not little experiments, but development on a scale which can influence the whole economic future of the region and which may be its salvation. We know to what an enormous extent the region is dependent upon the oil palm industry; it is our economic life blood, and unfortunately we have nearly all our eggs in one basket. The collapse of that industry would be an incalculable disaster and no man can measure the sufferings which would follow. This Bill, Sir, is calculated to avoid such a catastrophe in the face of competition, and the development aspect, to which I have referred, is an insurance against neglect; the means by which the industry can keep pace with its competitors and perhaps most importantly the opportunity for spreading the risk to the whole economic life of the people.

I could not believe, Sir, that there is anyone, who cares to know, who is not familiar with the provisions of this Bill. The policy upon which it is framed was set out in great clarity and detail in the Sessional Paper, which was endorsed by the Legislative Council last August. I doubt therefore whether I should take up the time of the House with a detailed explanation which a strange and unadvertised measure would have demanded, but I have no doubt that I must go over the broad principles of the organization which the Bill proposes. The House will, of course, later in committee consider the Bill clause by clause.

First of all, Sir, the Marketing Board is established and the membership is of a Chairman, two official Members and three Nigerian unofficial Members appointed by the Governor. The duties of this Board, which are clearly set out in the Bill, are to secure the most favourable price for produce and to control the finances of the industry; these duties are of the highest business responsibility involving negotiations with the markets of the world and decisions of policy of outstanding importance. It is therefore essential that the Board should contain experts capable of dealing with such matters and that there should be no possibility whatsoever of the selection of unsuitable Members through any whim. It will not, however, have passed the notice of readers of the Sessional Paper that the methods of selection will be subject to review in the course of time.

Then there is established a Representative Committee, consisting of a Chairman, one official Member and a representative of the licensed buying agents, all appointed by the Governor, and nine Nigerian unofficial Members; a Nigerian unofficial majority of nine to three. Seven of the Nigerian unofficial Members are appointed by the Eastern and Western Houses of Assembly and the remaining two by the Marketing Board from amongst its own Nigerian unofficial Members. I should like to draw particular attention to this latter provision, Sir, which not only brings the Marketing Board and the Representative Committee together, but ensures that the Representative Committee has an actual voice in

The second point made was that there should be an unofficial majority on the Board; I regret, Sir, that I would be unable to accept an amendment in that form. The present arrangements provide three each from the official and the unofficial side, and expert advice is required at such a very high level of business responsibility. I think at this stage it will be most undesirable and unwise to interfere with the constitution that has been provided.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question is that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that the Bill entitled "An Ordinance to make provision for the Marketing and Export of Nigeria Oil Palm Produce and for matters connected therewith" is acceptable in principle. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

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

The House is in Committee.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

As there are seventy odd clauses in the Bill, with the permission of the Members I will take the clauses in say five at a time, and will give Members plenty of time to offer any comments or amendments which they may wish. Is that acceptable? (Aye).

Enactment.

Clauses 1-5.

The Member for Educational Interests (Mr A. Ikoku):

Clause 3, Your Honour, sub-section 2, "Three Nigerian unofficial Members to be appointed by the Governor". I wonder if that could be amended to the effect that these unofficial Members should be appointed by the Legislative Council or by the Houses of Assembly, possibly one by the Western House and two by the Eastern House.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

Is the Member putting that in the form of an amendment?

The Member for Educational Interests (Mr A. Ikoku):

I am asking if there is any constitutional difficulty about it.

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

I should be compelled to resist any such amendment. It has been stated that the method of selection will be reconsidered in the course of time.

The Second Provincial Member for the Calabar Province (Mr Nyong Essien):

Your Honour, Bills like this are sent to this House for examination and for amendments, if necessary. If a flaw has been found in any clause of the Bill, there is no reason why it should not be corrected and recommended to His Excellency, the Governor. I support the Member for Educational Interests that this particular clause be amended.

The Member for Professional, Salaried and Wage-earning Classes (Mr E. N. Egbuna):

Your Honour, on this question I think the Member for Educational Interests wants to know why the constitution of that Board should not be altered. For my part I wish to know why Members should be appointed by His Excellency. The information which my friend seeks has not been given, and speaking for myself, unless an explanation is forthcoming why the powers of appointment should be vested in His Excellency and not as suggested by my friend, in the Eastern House of Assembly or Legislative Council, I shall be constrained to support whatever amendment he makes. The issue is clear, Sir.

This Bill is welcome, but if there is any disagreement regarding the constitution of any particular Board, unless satisfactory explanation comes from Government in support of its suggestion, this House will be entitled to make such amendment as Members deem necessary and it will be the duty of all unofficial Members to support such an amendment. The proper marketing of produce will have to be on the very highest level and Government has thought fit to keep the right to choose from the whole community whomsoever it thinks is a fit and suitable person. Apart from that I think we are in a position to know who is a fit and proper person to represent us and nomination should not be left in the hands of Government.

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

Sir, I regret that my earlier explanation was inadequate. The responsibilities of the Board are very heavy and there must be no risk taken that the membership should be subject to the whim of the moment. So far the mass of the people have no real conception of the Board's responsibilities, they have had no opportunity to see such a Board working. Until such time as they do realize the tremendous responsibilities of the Board pressure might well be brought to bear on unofficial Members to make selections for other than business reasons, for political reasons for example: that would be disastrous and would place the unofficial Members in an unenviable position.

The Member for Educational Interests (Mr A. Ikoku):

I must inform Your Honour that I am now quite happy about this. I am quite willing to assist the Government in the interests of the country, and I will not press the amendment I had in mind.

The Provincial Member for the Ogoja Province (Dr F. A. Ibiam):

Clause 3, Sir, sub-clause 2. I should like to make the following amendment. "The Marketing Board shall consist of a chairman to be appointed to be such by Governor, two official Members and four Nigerian unofficial Members to be appointed by the Governor."

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

Sir, I oppose the amendment on two grounds. One that it is in the opinion of Government too early, at this high business level, to establish an unofficial majority. There is equality at the moment. That is as far as Government is prepared to go. Furthermore, the amendment would bring into equality the membership from the Eastern and the Western Regions. This is contrary to the principle of the Bill that as the Eastern Region is far more concerned than the Western Region in this particular industry it should have a greater voice. The amendment proposes that the East should not have a voice in proportion to its industry.

The Provincial Member for the Owerri (Rivers) Province (Mr H. Bowari Brown):

Your Honour, I am of the opinion that at this initial stage, sub-section 3 be left as it is, and we shall know by experience whether a change will be made eventually, Sir.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question is that clause 3, sub-clause 3 be amended by substituting "four" for "three" in the third line and "two" for "one" in the fifth line. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No". The "Noes" have it.

The question is that clauses 1 to 5 stand as part of the Bill. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No". The "Ayes" have it.

Clauses 6 to 10.

The Provincial Member for the Ogoja Province (Dr F. A. Ibiam):

Clause 9, Sir, I would like to make the following amendment:—

"The quorum of the Marketing Board shall be two Members, one of whom shall be an unofficial Member, and the Chairman."

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

Sir, the section is good as it stands; it would be wrong to say that a quorum should consist of either two official or two unofficial Members, since, if any such restriction were made, either the officials

or the unofficials could obstruct the work by just not turning up. As the meetings of the Board are notified to everybody there is no need for such restriction as to the quorum. Although I appreciate the feeling of the mover of this amendment I must oppose it.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question is that clause 9 be amended in the terms proposed by the Member, which read: " At a meeting of the Marketing Board two members, one of whom shall be an official member, and the chairman, shall be a quorum ". Will those . . .

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

May I, for information, ask if it should not be: " one of whom shall be an unofficial " ?

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

Yes, " one of whom shall be an unofficial member, and the chairman shall be a quorum ". Will those in favour say " Aye " and those to the contrary " No " .

DIVISION

| <i>For</i> | <i>Against</i> |
|---|--|
| The Second Provincial Member for the Owerri Province | The Second Provincial Member for the Calabar Province |
| The Member for Port Harcourt | The Provincial Member for the Owerri (Rivers) Province |
| The Second Provincial Member for the Cameroons Province | The Second Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province |
| The Provincial Member for the Ogoja Province | The First Provincial Member for the Calabar Province |
| The First Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province | The First Provincial Member for the Owerri Province |
| The First Provincial Member for the Cameroons Province | The Member for African Commercial Interests |
| | The Member for Professional, Salaried and Wage-earning Classes |
| | The Member for Urban Areas other than Port Harcourt |
| | The Acting Senior Crown Counsel, Eastern Provinces |
| | The Deputy Director of Public Works, Eastern Provinces |
| | The Deputy Director of Education, Eastern Provinces |
| | The Deputy Director of Medical Services, Eastern Provinces |
| | The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces |
| | The Resident, Ogoja Province |
| | The Resident, Calabar Province |
| | The Resident, Onitsha Province |
| | The Resident, Owerri Province |
| | The Secretary, Eastern Provinces |
| | The Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces |

The Member for Educational Interests abstained from voting.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The result of the Division is "Noes" 19, "Ayes" 6.

The "Noes" have it.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question is that clauses 6 to 10 stand as part of the Bill. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

Clauses 11-15.

The Member for Educational Interests (Mr A. Ikoku):

Your Honour, clause 11, sub-section 2, line 3, "by a resolution signed by a majority of its members".

While I appreciate the signing of a resolution in the case of sub-section 1, before it, because two members only are involved, I do not know whether there is correct legal terminology to use the word "signed" in sub-section 2. If there is not I would like it to be altered to: "resolution passed by the majority" I presume that the Regional Production Development Board would have a secretary and if it passed a resolution a notification by its secretary that such a resolution was passed by a majority vote should be sufficient.

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

I have no objection to changing the word "signed" to "made".

The Member for Educational Interests (Mr A. Ikoku):

I therefore move the resolution that the word "signed" be deleted and the word "passed" be substituted therefor.

The Second Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province (Mr C. D. Onyeama):

On that point I would like to draw attention to one fact. That the passing or making of a resolution of a committee in the sense envisaged by my friend could only take place when the committee is actually in session. This section envisages a case where the committee is not in session where the secretary would not be sending out notices of the meeting. Therefore if the majority of the members of that committee got together by themselves and wrote the resolution and sent it to the chairman, he should then convene a meeting.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

Does that satisfy the Member?

The Member for Educational Interests (Mr A. Ikoku):

I agree that circumstances might arise where the Committee were not in session.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

There is no necessity for the Member to proceed with his amendment if he does not wish to.

The Member for Educational Interests (Mr A. Ikoku):

I withdraw it.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question is that clauses 11 to 15 stand as part of the Bill. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

Clauses 16-20.

The Member for Educational Interests (Mr A. Ikoku):

Clause 19, Sir, requires the Marketing Board to make arrangements with the Government of any country in the world. Is it asking too much to suggest that these arrangements be ratified by Legislative Council?

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

This section does not require the Marketing Board to do anything, it says the Marketing Board may enter into any arrangements, such as the selling of the produce of the Board. If the best market in the world happens to be a government controlled organization in some other country, the Marketing Board may then enter into arrangements to sell to it. It does not need the ratification of Legislative Council. It is not a part of Government and it does not want Government interference with it. The industry must have the right to make the best contracts it can with the outside world.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The Board of Trade is a part of the Government in the United Kingdom.

The Member for Urban Areas other than Port Harcourt (Reverend O. Efiog, O.B.E.):

Your Honour, I was about to say that when this Bill shall have passed through Legislative Council and has become an Ordinance it will be sufficient that Legislative Council has information about it for ratification, and therefore the people can operate.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

I am not quite clear whether the Member is pressing an amendment or not.

The Member for Educational Interests (Mr A. Ikoku):

No, I wanted to know, and I have got the information I asked for.

Clause 20, sub-section 3. "If the Marketing Board fails to accept the advice offered to it by the Representative Committee on any matter within the scope of sub-section (1), the chairman shall

forthwith report the matter to the Governor in Council with the reasons for such refusal". What happens next? Deadlock there I think.

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

Deadlock perhaps, but it would obviously be fantastic if the Representative Committee could control the Marketing Board, because if it could, why have a Marketing Board at all? At the same time it would be equally fantastic if the Marketing Board were simply in a position to ignore the Representative Committee. The Governor appoints members to the Board and perhaps we would find that a Board which persistently and without reason flouted the Representative Committee was not altogether suitable.

The Member for Educational Interests (Mr A. Ikoku):

May I say, Sir, for the purposes of record that this House is not satisfied and the matter should be gone into a little more thoroughly.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

Does the Member wish to press for an amendment?

The Member for Educational Interests (Mr A. Ikoku):

I do not profess to have any solution, Sir.

The Second Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province (Mr C. D. Onyeama):

May I draw attention to sections 69 and 70 because they are in advance, but I think that will meet the deadlock which might result, particularly section 70 which gives the Governor in Council power to make regulations generally. I think it possible that the Governor in Council might resolve any deadlock between these two Bodies. I think that would be the obvious solution.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question is that clauses 16 to 20 stand as part of the Bill. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

Clauses 21-25.

Clauses 26-30.

Clauses 31-35.

Clauses 36-40

Clauses 41-45.

Clauses 46-50.

Clauses 51-55.

The First Provincial Member for the Calabar Province (Mr Asuquo Okon):

I propose an amendment to clause 51. In the second line of that clause after the word "purchase" insert the words "or lease".

The Acting Senior Crown Counsel, Eastern Provinces:

Sir, I do not think this is necessary. I think the word "purchase" includes the words "purchase or lease". The word "purchase" in relation to land means it can be leased or held in any other manner and by putting in the word "lease" it looks as if we are inclined to limit to purchase and then lease without regard to any other forms of tenure. Also I see "purchase" is defined in section 2.

The Second Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province (Mr C. D. Onyeama):

Your Honour, I must say I disagree entirely with my friend the learned Crown Counsel. Purchase is purchase and lease is lease. You can purchase a fee simple. A purchase is different from leasing the land. I think it is quite clear, purchasing enables Government to acquire land outright whether it pays for it or gets it by some form of barter. Leasing confers the right and power to acquire leases.

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

I have no objection to this. I am quite prepared to accept it.

The Second Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province (Mr C. D. Onyeama):

If you say "purchase or lease" as has been pointed out, you restrict the manner of the purchase, and also if the Board has full power to lease because it says here, "A Regional Production Development Board may with the approval of the Chief Commissioner concerned purchase, hold, manage and dispose of any property whatsoever whether real or personal" Leasehold property is personal property, therefore if the Board has a right to hold personal property I think there can be no doubt that includes the right to leasehold. I think it would be making ourselves liable to some degree of obscurity. My experience is that the more words you put into a section the more danger there is of your meaning being lost.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question is that clause 51 should be amended by the insertion of the words "or lease" after the word "purchase" in the second line. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question is that clauses 51 to 55 including clause 51 as amended stand as part of the Bill. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

Clauses 56-60.

Clauses 61-65.

Clauses 66-70.

The Member for African Commercial Interests (Mr G. H. H. O'Dwyer):

Clause 69, Your Honour, I would like to make an amendment, instead of fourteen days, twenty-one days should be inserted.

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

I see no particular objection, but the Member has not given any reason why it should be necessary.

The Member for African Commercial Interests (Mr G. H. H. O'Dwyer):

It is quite clear that the present postal system of the country is absolutely erratic, and it is not fair to expect an aggrieved person to get in touch with the Marketing Board and get a reply within fourteen days. Twenty-one days I think would solve the difficulty. If one was in the Cameroons for instance one might not be able to get any communication for the best part of twenty-one days.

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

I see no objection to it.

The Second Provincial Member for the Owerri Province (Mr D. N. Achara):

Your Honour, I wish to ask the Member for Commercial Interests to repeat what he said because we in the corner do not hear what he says.

The Second Provincial Member for the Calabar Province (Mr Nyong Essien):

Your Honour, I support the last speaker. When a Member addresses Your Honour he should rather speak out to the hearing of the whole House than whisper a conversation. I think all Members have a right to hear what is said. I did not hear what the Member for African Commercial Interests said.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

I think the rule is that Members address their remarks to the Chair and speak sufficiently loudly for other Members to hear them.

The Member for African Commercial Interests (Mr G. H. H. O'Dwyer):

I am not gifted with the voice of the Second Provincial Member for the Calabar Province. My motion was that fourteen days be deleted and twenty-one days inserted in line 4, of clause 69, thereby allowing appeals to get in and out of the Marketing Board within a reasonable time.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question is that clause 69 should be amended by the substitution of "twenty-one" for "fourteen" days in the fourth line. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

The Member for Educational Interests (Mr A. Ikoku):

Your Honour, I wish to say that clause 67 is not quite clear until we read it in conjunction with clause 65 of the Groundnut Marketing Bill. The clause before us says that in the case of winding up "the funds of the Marketing Board shall be allocated for the benefit of the Northern, Eastern and Western Regions and of the Colony in such proportions as the Legislative Council may by resolution direct." In the Groundnuts Bill it says that in similar circumstances the funds should be for the benefit of the Northern Region—I am speaking of clause 65 of the other Ordinance. Why should we in winding up benefit the North and in their winding up benefit themselves? I hope I shall not be accused of parochialism, but I want these points adjusted.

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

I suggest that the section in this Bill is satisfactory. But the point which the Member has raised about another Bill will no doubt be raised again when we are considering it. It will be seen from the schedule to that Bill that we shall have some interest in it.

The Member for Educational Interests (Mr A. Ikoku):

Shall I make a provisional motion to drop the words "Northern and the Colony" in this clause as it now stands until we can resolve the matter when we come to the other Bill. It looks to me that if we allow this to pass we shall be accused of having passed it.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

I think you will either have to propose the amendment now or rely on your amendment being adopted when the second Bill is read.

The Resident, Owerri Province:

The safe course would be for the Member to get "Northern and Colony" deleted here and the "Eastern Provinces" inserted in the other Bill.

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

There is not likely to be any opposition to the proposal the Member is making in relation to a future Bill. I would say, so far as I am concerned, there will be no opposition to the proposal at a later date.

The Member for Professional, Salaried and Wage-earning Classes (Mr E. N. Egbuna):

I propose we leave the Bill as it stands now and make the necessary amendment at a later stage, and perhaps it might be better if we made the North aware of our feelings in the matter and make them

realize that until they are willing to share with us all the benefits of the good things in the North, we do not wish to co-operate with them.

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

I am quite sure it is a little thing which has unfortunately been overlooked, and I do not feel that we are going to bring the North on our side by having a crack at them here. The North has some rights under this Bill, Sir, and it would be unfriendly to attempt to tamper with them; why should we assume that they are going to be unreasonable to us?

The Member for Urban Areas other than Port Harcourt (Reverend O. Efiog, O.B.E.):

Your Honour, I understand that in this industry the North subscribes something, or contributes something, if so then in winding up they are entitled to a share. I take it also that if we shall contribute to the Groundnut Board we shall also share in the winding up.

The Member for Educational Interests (Mr A. Ikoku):

What does the North contribute to the Oil Palm Industry?

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

There is production of Oil Palm Produce in the Kabba Province of the Northern Provinces.

The Second Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province (Mr C. D. Onyeama):

And there is some groundnut production in the Cameroons.

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

And the proportion of groundnuts in the Northern Cameroons is probably even smaller than the proportion of oil palm products in the Northern Provinces.

The Provincial Member for the Ogoja Province (Dr F. A. Ibiam):

I believe, Sir, that the object of any industry in the country is to benefit the country as a whole whether such industry is operated in the North, South, West or East. I think this clause should be left as it is because although we do not grow groundnuts to any extent we do grow groundnuts here in the Eastern Provinces, and if we left this clause as it is there is no reason why we should not make a similar clause in all the other Bills which are coming before us. I think every aspect should be considered in the interest of the whole country.

The Member for Professional, Salaried and Wage-earning Classes (Mr E. N. Egbuna):

I satisfied myself before I voted. I agreed with the Financial Secretary when he suggests that when we come to deal with the other Bill we should not object to the additions of the East and West.

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

I can give that assurance right away. I cannot see any objection to it.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The Member has not proposed an amendment. Does he wish to do so?

The Member for Educational Interests (Mr A. Ikoku):

I want to say, Sir, if my amendment is passed it is not passed in any parochial spirit at all, but if Your Honour can advise His Excellency the Governor that we would like the benefit for all. The amendment I am proposing now is just to delete the words "North and of the Colony" from sub-section (1) clause 67.

The Second Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province (Mr C. D. Onyeama):

And sub-section (2) as well, Sir.

The Provincial Member for the Owerri (Rivers) Province (Mr H. Bowari Brown):

I agree with the last speaker. Unless we are assured that the same provision will be made in the other Ordinance, the North and Colony should be deleted from this Ordinance.

The Second Provincial Member for the Calabar Province (Mr Nyong Essien):

Your Honour, whilst being in sympathy with the Member who has brought this suggestion to the House, I feel, Sir, that the point raised seems a little bit prejudicial. The East is known in the higher House as the "Formidable East". As such we should not be apprehensive. If this section is left to remain as it is, the East will not lose in the Legislative Council when we suggest or move an amendment to it. I feel this section should be allowed to remain as it is rather than set the North up in Legislative Council to think we are discriminating them. All necessary amendments will be done when we get to the higher House.

The Member for Educational Interests (Mr A. Ikoku):

Your Honour, there is a solution provided in section 47 of the Cotton Marketing Bill. May I draw attention to it now: "When the Marketing Board ceases for any reason to exercise

its functions under the provisions of this Ordinance, or when the Ordinance ceases to have effect whether by reason of its repeal or otherwise, the funds of the Marketing Board shall be disposed of for the benefit of Nigeria in such manner as the Legislative Council may by resolution direct." I think that is the solution, Sir, and I would like to put it as an amendment.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

Does the Member wish to withdraw his former amendment?

The Member for Educational Interests (Mr A. Ikoku):

Yes, in favour of this latter amendment.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

Are Members willing that the former amendment be withdrawn and the amendment stands now that the whole of section 67 be deleted and in its place section 47 of the Cotton Marketing Board be substituted? (Aye).

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

In the first place, Northern, Eastern, Western and the Colony is Nigeria. It does not make any alteration. Secondly, if we are going to delete the whole of this section we lose the provision "that the House of Assembly may dispose of the funds by resolution". Under the clause as it stands there is specific provision for the regional benefit, which I wish to keep.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question is that clause 67 should be amended by deleting the whole clause and inserting the terms of clause 47 of the Cotton Marketing Bill which reads: "When the Marketing Board ceases for any reason to exercise its functions under the provisions of this Ordinance, or when the Ordinance ceases to have effect whether by reason of its repeal or otherwise, the funds of the Marketing Board shall be disposed of for the benefit of Nigeria in such manner as the Legislative Council may by resolution direct". Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Noes" have it.

The question is that clauses 66 to 70, including clause 69 as amended, stand as part of the Bill. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

Schedule.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question is that the schedule stand as part of the Bill. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

Title.

The House will now resume.

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

Sir, I beg to report: that a Bill for an Ordinance to make provision for the Marketing and Export of Nigerian Oil Palm Produce and for matters connected therewith passed through Committee with two amendments.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question before this House is that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that this Bill is acceptable to this House, with two amendments recommended in Committee. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

If it is the wish of Members I propose that the House should now adjourn and resume at 3 o'clock. (Aye).

The House adjourned at 1 p.m.

The House resumed at 3 p.m.

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

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

Sir, I beg to move the following:

"Be it resolved: That this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that a Bill for 'An Ordinance to make Provision for the Marketing and Export of Nigerian Groundnuts and certain other Oil Seeds and for matters connected therewith' is acceptable in principle."

This Bill, Sir, deals with the marketing of groundnuts and benniseed and accordingly it is of limited concern to this Region. It is primarily a matter for the Northern Provinces. It follows very much the same lines as those of the oil palm Bill which has now passed through this House and where it may differ in detail in its constitution, that seems to me a matter with which we should not interfere. We should, I think, leave it to our friends in the North to choose for themselves the methods which they desire and which they find suitable. I think it would be extremely tedious of me now to go through the principles of this Bill again since they are fundamentally the same as those with which we have dealt. I wish, however, to disarm one possible criticism; that the interests of this Region in the oil seeds concerned might have been overlooked. We have little now perhaps, but we might some day have quite a lot. We might, in particular, develop a considerable interest in benniseed and we have now some benniseed in Ogoja Province.

Our interests, Sir, are fully protected by section 26, sub-section (2) and the profits from our crops under this Ordinance accrue to our Regional Production Development Board.

The winding up clauses of the Bill, Sir, have been the subject of some comment by unofficial Members and no doubt amendments will be proposed in Committee to bring them into line with the Oil Palm Bill. These amendments, Sir, will be supported.

I beg to move this Bill, Sir.

The Deputy Director of Education, Eastern Provinces:

Sir, I beg to second.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question before the House is that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that this Bill is acceptable in principle. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary say "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

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

The House is in Committee.

Title.

Enactment.

Clauses 1-5.

Clauses 6-10.

Clauses 11-15.

Clauses 16-20.

Clauses 21-25.

Clauses 26-30.

Clauses 31-35.

Clauses 36-40.

Clauses 41-45.

Clauses 46-50.

Clauses 51-55.

Clauses 56-60.

Clauses 61-67.

The Member for Educational Interests (Mr A. Ikoku):

Your Honour, clause 65—following the opening remarks of the Secretary (Finance), I beg to move that clause 65 be deleted and the wording of clause 67 of the Oil Palm Produce Bill be substituted therefor.

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

I accept that amendment, Sir.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question is that clause 65 should be deleted and in its place clause 67 of the Oil Palm Produce Marketing Bill should be substituted. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary say "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question is that clauses 61-67, including clause 65 as amended, should stand as in the Bill. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

Schedule.

The question is that the Schedule stand as part of the Bill. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

Titlê.

The House will now resume.

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

I beg to report that the Bill entitled "An Ordinance to make provision for the Marketing and Export of Nigerian Groundnuts and certain other Oil Seeds and for matters connected therewith" has passed through Committee with one amendment.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question before the House is that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that the Bill entitled "An Ordinance to make Provision for the Marketing and Export of Nigerian Groundnuts and certain other Oil Seeds and for matters connected therewith", as amended in Committee, is acceptable to the House. Will those in favour say "Aye" and 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 Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

Sir, I beg to move the following:—

"Be it resolved: That this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that the Bill entitled 'A Bill for an Ordinance to make Provision for the Marketing and Export of Nigerian Cotton and for matters connected therewith' is acceptable in principle."

Sir, this Bill is for the marketing of cotton in which this Region has no business interests. It follows in its form the principles of the two Marketing Bills which have now passed through this House, except that it has no development aspect. I feel, Sir, that the Bill calls for no further explanation and I commend it to the House.

amend the Local Loans (Registered Stock and Securities) Ordinance, 1946 " is acceptable to the House. Will those in favour say " Aye " and 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 Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

Sir, I beg to move the following:—

Be it resolved:

" That this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that a Bill entitled ' 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 ' is acceptable in principle."

I felt when proposing the Oil Palm Marketing Bill that that was something which brightened the future and which could turn a lot of talk into action. This Bill, Sir, in my opinion, is equally full of hope for the future, and I believe it is, perhaps more than any other measure, the thing which people at all levels and all shades of opinion have been looking for for a very long time. It is a very simple proposition and it requires no high level of education to understand it; it can only be meaningless to those who have either never heard of the word " progress ", or to those to whose conservative instincts the word is anathema. The Bill provides, Sir, by the speediest methods, without any fuss or frills, forms or red-tape for the provision of loans to anyone who can make a business-like use of them and add to the industrialization and well-being of this great country. I am not over-simplifying the case at all, except in one particular; that we, as a region, have got to raise the capital. We have the powers to borrow, but we must honour our debts. I do not think that anybody would quarrel with that. The Nigerian Local Development Board which this Bill dissolves and replaces is fairly well-known. If I add that it might be known more by its limitations and its delays,—I am not criticising the Board, but the system under which it had to operate. I am not criticising at all, I am merely supporting this Bill because it is designed to change that system and substitute a better one which removes the difficulties which formerly existed. What were those difficulties? I cannot count them all, but a few obvious ones come to mind. Lagos is a very long long way away, but this Bill organizes loans in our midst; the Nigerian Local Development Board could not make loans

to individuals, but by this Bill we can do so; it was somewhat restricted in the purposes for which it could make loans, but now these purposes are a very great deal wider and I might describe them as a drag net. The Regional Board, Sir, which will control this loan organization consists of not less than five members appointed by the Chief Commissioner, of whom one shall be chairman and three shall be members of this House. The intention of the Bill is quite clear that this House and its Standing Committee on Finance should have control of the funds which are, of course, tied up with regional finance. My attention, Sir, has been drawn to the fact that although this intention of the Bill may be clear, it is not sufficiently clear in one particular case, and notice has been given to me that an amendment is proposed in Committee. I may say at once, Sir, that an amendment which is designed to preserve the intention of this Bill will be supported. An important feature of the Bill is that which authorises the Board to borrow from Native Authorities. There has been for a very long time a persistent demand that the surplus funds of the Native Authorities should be invested in this country and that demand I may say, Sir, has always had my sympathy. Here, Sir, is the answer; investment in the Regional Development Board is now open to the Native Authorities and there is no more secure investment nor any more certain means by which such funds should assist in the development of local enterprise and industry.

The Board will start off with a free grant from the assets of the Nigerian Local Development Board, and will, of course, take over such loans, and on such terms as have been agreed, which have been issued up to the date of taking over. The Regional Board will, of course, recover the principal and interest accruing from these loans. This Bill, Sir, is I believe, what the people want. We shall get funds; we shall distribute them quickly and sensibly and we shall not have to wait long to see results.

But just one final point; the Regional Development Board is set up to give the opportunity to others to develop and there its functions end. It differs from the Production Development Boards under the marketing organizations which are bodies which themselves undertake development. The functions of the two Development Boards, Sir, are completely complimentary, but in this particular case it is a private individual who gets on with the job and in the other it is a Board which gets on with the job. I feel, Sir, that this Board, if it is given an opportunity, will leave its mark on the general well-being of this country.

I commend the Bill, Sir.

The Resident, Owerri Province:

Sir, I beg to second.

**The Member for Urban Areas other than Port Harcourt
(Reverend O. Efiog, O.B.E.):**

Sir, I do not wish to multiply words, but I feel, that I must associate myself with every word that the Secretary (Finance), has uttered in introducing this Bill, and I want to say that I am voicing the convictions and sentiments of all the unofficials.

This Bill is well received because Industrial Development in whatever form or measure in the Eastern Provinces, has been completely fruitless because there was no avenue whatsoever whereby loans could be raised in order to foster them.

Our system of land tenure precludes us from availing ourselves of loans from banks, and I think in constituting this Regional Development Board we are removing a great barrier which militated against our economic security and development.

I am speaking the minds of the people, and I warmly support this Bill.

The Member for Educational Interests (Mr A. Ikoku):

Your Honour, I happen to be a Member of the Nigerian Local Development Board representing this Region, and may I just say that I welcome this measure of decentralization very highly.

The Provincial Member for the Owerri (Rivers) Province (Mr H. Bowari Brown):

Your Honour, I am exceedingly happy about this Bill for the reasons that are well known. There are many parts of my Province which require funds for development in sundry ways because they are no longer able to help themselves as they used to do before. By means of this Bill I sincerely hope that these peoples, the Ijaws, etc., will be able to help themselves by raising loans from this Board and depositing their finances with the Board so that they can be sure of development and the industrial improvements which they have not had. I welcome the Bill very heartily, Sir.

The First Provincial Member for the Owerri Province (Mr M. W. Ubani):

Your Honour, I welcome the provisions of this Bill for the following reasons:

One, that the introduction of this Bill goes to practicalize the theory that the Government of Nigeria is gradually showing that the ultimate aim of the people of this country is for self-government.

The people, have been expecting for many many years the introduction of Bills such as this and now they have come to realize it. I feel sure we are walking in the right at last.

Secondly, members of the Native Authorities of the Eastern Provinces have very often asked what becomes of our reserve funds. I think they will be satisfied now and I can say, Sir, as far as the people in my constituency are concerned, that the introduction of this legislation of Local Development Board whereby loans can be raised by individuals or bodies will be greatly welcomed amongst our people.

The Board is indeed a welcome to all as it will help both individuals, organizations or bodies in the development of our country. I support this Bill, Sir.

The Second Provincial Member for the Calabar Province (Mr Nyong Essien):

Your Honour, I associate myself with the previous speakers in their observations. I feel, Sir, that this is another step which this Administration has taken towards the goal of our desire, that is, progress and advancement, and finally, independence with all its ramifications. I do appreciate, Sir, the efforts which have produced this Bill. I support it with all fours.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question before this House is that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that this Bill is acceptable in principle. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

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

The House is in Committee.

Enactment.

Clauses 1 to 5.

The First Provincial Member for the Calabar Province (Mr Asuquo Okon):

Your Honour, I have an amendment to propose to clause 4. After (1) (b) I propose to add a proviso: "provided that when each of the Regional Development Boards consists of more than five members, the unofficial Members of the Northern Regional Council or of the appropriate House of Assembly shall be in a majority."

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

Except for the change of the words "each of" for "any" I feel I must accept that amendment, Sir. It is clearly the intention of this Bill that the control of the finances of this Board shall be in the hands of the House of Assembly and the Standing Committee on Finance which has certain controls over the issue of funds. It seems by implication in the wording, Sir, that the intention was to make

provision such as the Member has proposed and that the possibility of membership of over five, nullifies that intention. I may add, Sir, that it was not contemplated that in this region there would be membership in excess of five, but the Bill nevertheless does provide for it. I therefore think I should accept the amendment.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

That proviso comes in after sub-section (1) (b).

The First Provincial Member for the Calabar Province (Mr Asuquo Okon):

Yes, Sir.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question is that clause 4 of the Bill should be amended by the addition of the following words as a proviso after sub-section (1) (b) " provided that when each of the Development Boards consists of more than five members, the unofficial members of the Northern Regional Council or the appropriate House of Assembly shall be in a majority!"

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

I am suggesting that instead of " each " we should substitute " any " " If any of the Development Boards . . . "

The Member for Educational Interests (Mr A. Ikoku):

On a point of explanation, Sir, what is the Northern Regional Council?

The Secretary, Eastern Provinces:

It is a combination of the Northern House of Chiefs and the Northern House of Assembly.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question is that clause 4 of the Bill should be amended by the addition of the following words as a proviso after sub-section (1) (b): " provided that when any of the Development Boards consist of more than five members, the unofficial members of the Northern Regional Council or of the appropriate House of Assembly shall be in a majority." Will those in favour say " Aye " and those to the contrary " No ".

The " Ayes " have it.

The Member for Educational Interests (Mr A. Ikoku):

Clause 5, Sir, sub-section (4), a member shall cease to be a member if he has been absent from meetings of the Board for a period longer than three consecutive months. My experience is that the Local Development Board meets quarterly, and if the

Eastern Board is going to meet quarterly, absence for three consecutive months will hardly be possible. I suggest that "for three consecutive meetings" would be better.

Another point, you can hardly be a chairman of a Board if you were not at its meetings. In other words I propose an amendment in concrete terms that after the word "absent from" we insert the words "three consecutive" then cut out "for a period of longer than consecutive months" and for the word "board" substitute the word "chairman".

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

I think it is envisaged that the Regional Development Board will probably meet more than once a quarter, but I see the Member's point, Sir. I would like to amend his amendment to "has been absent from the meeting of the Board for more than two consecutive meetings without permission of the Board." I leave the word "Board" in, Sir, because the chairman has no powers to do anything on behalf of the Board unless by its standing rules he has been given authority to do so. I think "two consecutive meetings without permission" is what we want.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

Would you repeat your amendment to the amendment.

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

It would read, Sir, "has been absent from meetings of the Board for two consecutive meetings without the permission of the Board."

The Resident, Owerri Province:

Would it be simpler to say "has been absent from two consecutive meetings of the Board without the permission of the Board."?

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

That merely means that certain words in the centre of sub-section (4) (a) have to be deleted.

The question is that clause 5, sub-clause (4) (a) be amended as follows: "has been absent from" insert "two consecutive" continue "meetings of the Board" delete "for a period of not longer than three consecutive months without permission of the Board". Have I made that clear?

If Members wish I will read it again exactly as it stands: "Has been absent from two consecutive meetings of the Board without the permission of the Board". This is the amendment to the amendment, which has to be taken first, as you will appreciate.

The Member for Educational Interests (Mr A. Ikoku):

I accept the amendment to my amendment.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

The question is that clauses 1 to 5 including clause 4 as amended and clause 5 as amended, stand as part of the Bill. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

Clauses 6-10.

The First Provincial Member for the Calabar Province (Mr Asuquo Okon):

Your Honour, I have an amendment to make for the insertion of a new clause between clauses 5 and 6. I notice, Sir, that there is no provision in this Bill for the Board to have any power to co-opt members upon special occasions, and the amendment I am proposing is to give the Board that power. I am proposing a new clause after clause 5 to read as follows: "Where upon any special occasion the Regional Development Board desires to obtain advice of any person on a point on any particular matter, the Regional Development Board may co-opt such person to be a Member for such meeting or meetings as may be required, and such persons while so co-opted shall have all the rights and privileges of a member, save that he shall not be entitled to vote upon any question."

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

I welcome the addition, Sir. Could we note, Sir, that it will involve renumbering all sections from this onwards.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

We will put that as a question shortly.

The Member for Professional, Salaried and Wage-earning Classes (Mr E. N. Egbuna):

I beg to suggest an amendment to the amendment, Sir. In the interpretation sections "board" means the "Development Board" and it seems irrelevant to refer to the Regional Development Board. I therefore move that the words "Regional Development" be deleted from the suggested amendment. It should read: "Where upon any special occasion the Board desires to obtain"

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

Does the Member accept that?

The First Provincial Member for the Calabar Province (Mr Asuquo Okon):

Yes, I accept it.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question is that a new clause 6 be inserted to read as follows: "Where upon any special occasion the Board desires to obtain advice of any person on a point on any particular matter, the Board may co-opt such person to be a member for such meeting or meetings as may be required, and such person while so co-opted shall have all the rights and privileges of a member, save that he shall not be entitled to vote upon any question". Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

The question is that the numbering of clauses 6 to 43 be increased in every case by one. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

The question is that clauses 6 to 10, including the new clause 6 stand as part of the Bill. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

Clauses 11-15.

Clauses 16-20.

Clauses 21-25.

The First Provincial Member for the Calabar Province (Mr Asuquo Okon):

Your Honour, in clause 22, sub-clause (2) (new numbering), it is there provided that in the exercise of its powers under sub-clause (1) the Board shall not make any grant whatsoever or make any advances to exceed £10,000 without prior approval of the Standing Committee on Finance.

I do not quite appreciate this in the light of clauses (b) and (c). I take it that (a) will include (b) and (c), and if that is so, Sir, I think (b) and (c) are unnecessary.

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

There is a misunderstanding: there is a difference between the words "grant" and "advance". A grant means something to be given away free of interest and not to be repaid and an advance is something that is going to be repaid perhaps with interest, however small. I do think it is necessary to have this overriding control of the Standing Committee on Finance because if we are going to give money away we are giving away part of our regional resources. If we are going to make an advance of £10,000 I think it is only proper that it should come under the control of the Standing Committee on Finance. The object is to keep this under the control of the House and the Standing Committee on Finance.

Clause 7, Sir. An unmarried woman is liable for assessment of Income Tax; a woman living separate from her husband is able to get away with it; this inconsistency is corrected.

Clause 8 I referred to at the beginning. It refers to assessments of newly established local industries in the first six years of their lives. I feel, Sir, this is a progressive measure in the interests of the development of industry in this country.

Clause 9, Sir. After an assessment is made another assessment can be made but after that no further assessment can be made and it does not matter how much is found out later the party who has been depriving the revenue has got away with it. It happens sometimes that business men have not kept proper accounts, this comes to the notice of the Inland Revenue Department; but if yet further information comes in additional assessments are barred. A man will now have to pay his just dues even if it takes him three times or more to do it.

Clause 10, Sir. When the limits under section 25 (1) of the principal Ordinance were raised a consequential amendment was overlooked and this is now made.

Clause 11. The principal Ordinance provides for appeals in respect of substantial assessment of tax, and these appeals go to the Board of Commissioners and the Supreme Court.

It has been found that taxpayers who are assessed at £50 or upwards invariably refuse to accept the decision of the Board of Commissioners and appeal further. This is a waste of time by members of the Board and in such cases when the assessment is over £50 the appeal will go to the Supreme Court. The last clause, clause 12, is merely a constitutional change. The original Ordinance of 1943 came into force before the new constitution was inaugurated. Resolutions of Legislative Council now apply to the whole country including the Northern Provinces.

These, Sir, are the things which appear in the printed Ordinance but there are further amendments which I have circulated and which I shall propose in committee. I think, however, that I should give an explanation of them now.

The principal Ordinance makes provision for changes in the rates of tax in the case of individuals, and in the case of companies, but for some curious reason it does it in a different manner. In the case of individuals the rates of tax are stated in a schedule to the Ordinance which can be amended by resolution of the Legislative Council. In the case of companies tax there is no schedule, the rate of tax forms part of the Ordinance; therefore to alter the individual's rate of tax a simple resolution of the Legislative Council at the Budget Session is all that is required, but to alter the rate of companies tax a complete amendment of the law is required. This

means now under the present constitutional arrangements that such an amendment must come through the House of Assembly; that is, it must be decided upon not later than the beginning of November in any year. Well, that is not practicable; it does not work, because the reasons for increasing either individual or companies tax are not necessarily evident at such an early date. Money is required to balance the budget of the country and to provide services for Nigeria. These requirements are known when the Budget-Session of Legislative Council sits in March; they are not necessarily known in November. The amendments which I shall therefore propose in committee will put the companies tax in precisely the same position as the individual tax; that is authority for it will be provided by schedule which can be amended by Legislative Council at its Budget Session.

Sir, I commend this Bill to the House.

The Acting Senior Crown Counsel, Eastern Provinces:

Sir, I beg to second.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question is that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that the Bill entitled "An Ordinance further to amend the Income Tax Ordinance, 1943" is acceptable in principle. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

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

The House is in committee.

Enactment.

Clauses 1-5.

Clauses 6-10.

The Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces:

Sir, I wish to propose after clause 7 to insert clause 8 and to renumber the present clause 8 as 9. I propose to insert the following clause, which has been circulated, and which will read:—

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

"Rate of tax
upon
Companies. 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 at a lower rate or not charged with any tax as the Commissioner shall determine."

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question before the House is that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that a Bill for an Ordinance further to amend the Income Tax Ordinance, 1943, with five amendments recommended in Committee is acceptable to this House. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE 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

The Second Provincial Member for the Onitsha Province (Mr C. D. Onyeama):

Your Honour, I rise to move:—

Be it resolved:

"That this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that a Bill entitled 'An Ordinance to provide 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' is acceptable in principle".

This is a private Bill, Sir, and it is proposed that the Second Lagos Member will introduce it in Legislative Council. At present I am moving it for adoption as a Bill which is acceptable in principle.

The present Newspaper Ordinance, that is an enactment passed in 1917, requires that anybody who wants to publish a newspaper must have sworn an affidavit and then prior to permission to act as a proprietor he may have to enter into a bond of £250 before he is permitted to publish a newspaper. Now this Bill proposes instead to set up a register or registry where all publishers, proprietors and printers would be registered, as well as the names of all newspapers and books. It does simplify the opening moves in the establishment of a newspaper or in the printing of a book. The Bill also deals with the Printing Press Regulations Ordinance of 1933, but there is not very much difference between the 1933 Ordinance and the Bill. Most of the provisions of these two Ordinances are incorporated in this Bill. The term "printed" which appears in the definition is taken verbatim from the 1933 Ordinance as well as clause 5 of the Bill. Clause 15 of the Bill which says that no criminal prosecution shall be commenced against any proprietor, printer or publisher of the newspaper for any libel without the consent of the Attorney-General is an exact reiteration of section 18 of the 1917 Ordinance. The whole principle involved in this Bill as I understand it is the whole question of

whether the old method of swearing affidavits and getting bonds filed before a newspaper can be established shall be abandoned and the simpler method of registration established. The Bill strictly speaking is not a revolutionary one because it is an adaptation of certain English enactments. These enactments are set out in the Objects and Reasons of this Bill. They are the Newspapers, Printers and Reading Rooms Repeal Act, 1868, the Newspaper Libel and Registration Act, 1881 and the Copyright (Imperial) Act, 1911. These are the English Acts which deal with this matter and the Bill is modelled to a great extent on these three enactments. The proposer of the Bill has also stated in the Objects and Reasons that this Bill brings our law into line with the laws existing in the United Kingdom, some parts of the British Commonwealth, the Gold Coast and New Zealand. As I see it, Sir, this is really a simplification of methods rather than any violent break with the old law. Your Honour, I beg to commend this Bill.

The Second Provincial Member for the Calabar Province (Mr Nyong Essien):

Sir, I beg to second.

The Acting Senior Crown Counsel, Eastern Provinces:

Your Honour, I am to inform the House that although the Bill contains some useful provisions, it is not acceptable to Government in its present form. There are serious deficiencies in the Bill which would oblige Government members to move amendments or even oppose the Bill if not suitably amended if and when it reaches Legislative Council. Government does not wish, however, to offer official obstruction to passage of Bill through the Houses of Assembly. It would be of assistance however, if unofficial Members would give their advice on the Bill in general terms rather than by way of formal amendments. Furthermore, I am to suggest that it would be appropriate for such Members to advise consultation between mover and Attorney-General with a view to preparing agreed amendments before Legislative Council meets.

The Bill repeals in section 24 the existing Newspapers Ordinance and the Printing Presses Regulation Ordinance. The main provisions of the Newspapers Ordinance are that each proprietor, printer and publisher is required to provide information to Government regarding the correct title of his newspaper, a true description of the place of printing and the real names and addresses of the proprietor, printer and publisher. This information has to be given in the form of an affidavit, and, under section 10 of the Ordinance, each such affidavit is accepted in judicial proceedings as conclusive evidence of the truth of all matters set forth therein. Each proprietor, printer and publisher has to execute a bond, with sureties, or furnish a deposit, of £250. Action can be taken on this bond under section 17 of the Ordinance in the event of any breach of its conditions, which are shown by the schedule to the Ordinance

to arise if any penalties are imposed under the Ordinance or other law, or damages or costs awarded in any action for libel brought in respect of the matter in the newspaper.

The Printing Presses Regulation Ordinance provides that no person shall keep a press for printing of books and papers until he has made a declaration before a Magistrate. The declaration is under Regulations No. 38 of 1933, deposited with the Commissioner of Police, and certain Police Officers have been given the power to visit premises in which a press, in respect of which a declaration has been made, is kept. This Ordinance, as its title suggests, is designed to enable Government to exercise control over printing presses in the country.

In the Bill, the provisions of the Newspapers Ordinance would be replaced by a system of registration covering only the title of the newspapers and the names and addresses of the proprietors. The provisions regarding the names and addresses of the printers and publishers and requiring a bond or deposit are omitted. Required information is to be conveyed merely in the form of a return and not by means of an affidavit as in the Newspapers Ordinance and this would require additional evidence of the accuracy and authenticity of the form in the event of judicial proceedings.

The Bill ignores completely the provisions of the Printing Presses Regulation Ordinance.

It will be seen therefore, that the Bill seeks to effect a drastic change in the existing law. In the absence of a bond, a person suing a newspaper for a vicious libel, might well find that he is suing men of straw and cannot recover a farthing for the grave injury done to his character.

Furthermore, for the sake of preventing and checking the publication of libellous, indecent and revolutionary articles, it seems desirable that there should be some system of registration of printing presses.

I therefore repeat it would be of great assistance if unofficial Members could give advice on the Bill in general terms and advise consultation between the mover and the Attorney-General with a view to reaching some compromise before the next meeting of Legislative Council.

I suggest the most appropriate time for making such recommendation is when the House considers clause 24 in Committee.

The Member for Port Harcourt (Mr L. R. Potts-Johnson):

Your Honour, I am very disappointed this afternoon because as a newspaper proprietor I studied the Bill before the House most carefully and in my opinion I see nothing in it to quarrel with and in connection with editors of other papers at Port Harcourt we studied it together and thought this was an

improvement on the present Newspaper Ordinance. I was coming to this House to give the Bill my benediction. But I was surprised to hear the Acting Senior Crown Counsel spoke as he has done and at the end said the Bill is not acceptable to Government in its present form.

However, he says we have the chance of presenting our views to the Attorney-General, and perhaps in consultation with the Acting Senior Crown Counsel himself we shall see what we can do in the matter.

As it is I feel I have wasted my time over the Bill because I came with the hope of supporting it.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

In view of what Acting Senior Crown Counsel has said about Government's attitude and desire in connection with this Bill, I propose to put the question that this House do advise His Excellency that the Bill is acceptable in principle. After that I will put the question of whether the House wishes to resolve itself into Committee to study the Bill clause by clause. It would seem that there is not much purpose in considering the Bill at this stage clause by clause until the originators of the Bill have got together with the Attorney-General and are in agreement on the things which have been mentioned. If that is accepted by the House then the usual procedure will be adopted and His Excellency will be advised that the Bill is acceptable in principle to this House. The Bill can be dealt with at some future date, either in this House, or, I think merely in Legislative Council. I will therefore put the question.

The question is that this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that this Bill is acceptable in principle to this House. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No".

The "Ayes" have it.

Is it the wish that the House should resolve itself into Committee to deal with the Bill clause by clause? (No). His Excellency will be advised that the Bill is acceptable in principle to this House.

The Secretary, Eastern Provinces:

If there is any call for a division, Sir, may I say I am instructed that the official Members will abstain from voting.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The question was put whether this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that this Bill is acceptable to this House, and the answer to that question was yes. No division was asked for. Then the question was asked whether Members wished the House to resolve itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause in view of the circumstances connected with the Bill, and the answer was

"No", and no division was pressed. I am now informing the House that in connection with the first question His Excellency the Governor will be advised that the Bill is acceptable in principle to this House. I am sorry, I am afraid some Members misunderstood the situation.

The Provincial Member for the Ogoja Province (Dr F. A. Ibiam):

With your permission, Sir, and if I might say so, we do not quite understand the implication of Your Honour's decision. Does it mean that this Bill will be considered again in this House or discussed in Legislative Council as it is?

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

The Bill will be considered again and it cannot proceed any further in the Legislative Council stage until the originators of the Bill have reached an agreement with the Attorney-General, or at least have endeavoured to obtain an agreement with the Attorney-General. We have not said in this House that this Bill is not acceptable to this House.

The Provincial Member for the Ogoja Province (Dr F. A. Ibiam):

Yes, Sir.

His Honour the Chief Commissioner:

Gentlemen, before adjourning you will, I am certain, wish me to express the gratitude of the House to all who have helped to make this Session a success.

Our thanks are due to the Commanding Officer and all ranks of the 4th Battalion the Nigeria Regiment for kindly lending us the use of this building, the Garrison Hall.

Also we are greatly indebted to the Secretariat staff and members of departments for the efficient organization and the arrangements made for our comfort.

If you will permit me I should also like to add a further tribute, this time to the House itself. It is to express my admiration for the very high standard of the debates which have taken place during this Session. There is no doubt that the Eastern House of Assembly has a great future ahead of it. Finally, may I take this opportunity of wishing you, and through you the peoples of the Eastern Provinces, a very happy Christmas and the best of all possible good fortune in 1949.

The House will now adjourn *sine die*.

The House adjourned at 4.45 p.m.