



NIGERIA

EASTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

# ADDRESS

by

His Honour

Commander J. G. Pyke-Nott, C.M.G., R.N.,  
Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces,  
to the Fourth Budget Session of the  
Eastern House of Assembly,  
6th December, 1950

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**ADDRESS by His Honour Commander J. G. Pyke-Nott,  
C.M.G., R.N., Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces, at  
the Fourth Budget Session of the Eastern House of  
Assembly, December, 1950.**

**MEMBERS OF THE EASTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,**

Once more we are met together primarily for the purpose of considering the financial position of this Region and of examining and deciding on the shape of the Regional Budget for the year 1951-52, and once more it is my duty to lay before you a review and a stock-taking of events and progress for the period 1st September, 1949, to 31st August, 1950.

The year under review has been one of intense activity in the realms of constitutional advance and of local government reform. It has been marked by industrial unrest and increased political activity; by the establishment of a live campaign in the vast field of community development and by the gearing-up of practical schemes for economic development. It has, in short, been a year of ever quickening tempo both in desirable development in the widest sense and in undesirable manifestations of disorder and lawlessness.

It is appropriate to begin this yearly stocktaking with some account of the Region's financial affairs as a background to the Draft Regional Estimates which are now to be presented to this House.

When the accounts for the financial year 1948-49 were finally closed the Eastern Region had not utilised £248,502 4s 1d of the total funds allocated to the Region for Regional works services during that financial year. This amount was, with the approval of Legislative Council, transferred by Government to the Eastern Regional General Revenue Balance Account. Last financial year 1949-50 the Region withdrew from this account £80,000, but this amount was not expended during the year, and during the current financial year the Region has obtained two withdrawals from the account, one of £168,502 and the second of £25,000. These latter amounts are being expended, with the approval of the Standing Committee on Finance of this House, on capital works and other special expenditure, which are not of a recurrent nature. The accounts for last financial year, 1949-50, have not yet been finalised and so the amount of the Regional allocation for that year which was not utilised, is not yet known, but it is expected to be fairly substantial, though not as large as the amount not utilised during the previous year.

The unexpectedly large funds available to the Region from the General Revenue Balance Account have been of the greatest use to the Region, as the Region otherwise would not have been able to undertake any major capital works. But the Region cannot



expect these "windfalls" to continue, as much of the "savings" in the past were due to posts not being filled, owing to lack of qualified applicants, whereas now most posts are filled, or are being filled, and services are being developed.

At the meeting of Legislative Council last March, the Legislative Council approved the grant of Temporary Addition to Rates of Pay to all Government Officers, employees and Labour. In addition, Legislative Council approved the grant of assistance to Native Administrations and Townships in respect of the Temporary Addition to Rates of Pay granted to their employees, and also assistance to Voluntary Agencies for the Temporary Addition to Rates of Pay for their teachers whose salaries attract educational grants in aid. The cost of this Temporary Addition to Rates of Pay is being mainly borne by Government but the Regions have been required to make provisions for part of the cost from their revenue allocations. The Eastern Region has made a provision of £112,000 for this purpose. It was therefore necessary to revise the Regional Estimates for the current year last May, and I am glad to say that it was found possible to reduce other items of expenditure sufficiently to offset the additional expenditure on Temporary Addition to Rates of Pay.

I regret that I am not able in this Address to make any detailed statement on the Eastern Region Draft Estimates, 1951-52. At the time of preparing this Address the Draft Estimates have not yet been completed as the final Revenue Allocation to the Region is not yet known. But I can say that it has been necessary, even more so than in previous years, to insist on the greatest economy in the estimates of expenditure.

Before leaving the subject of Regional Finances, I must make reference to the Revenue Allocation Commission. Most Members met the Commission when it visited Enugu and had an opportunity to place their views before it. The report of the Commission has not yet been published and so it is not possible to make any statement on this subject, but when considering the Region's finances during this current year and for next financial year, we must always keep in view possible future commitments of the Region under the new Constitution.

The Eastern Regional Development Board, more commonly known as the "Loans Board", has met regularly and it is hoped that its first annual report, the publication of which has been delayed owing to unforeseen difficulties, will shortly be in the hands of Members of this House. The people of the Region were quick to realise the opportunities offered by the Board and in the twelve months that it has been functioning over three hundred and fifty applications for loans and grants have been received totalling some nine hundred thousand pounds.

Loans and grants approved to date total £268,293 and applications awaiting consideration by the Board total approximately £524,000. This sum does not take account of applications now

under investigation which, it is estimated, amount to an additional £100,000. It will thus be seen that the sum total of applications received amounts to approximately £892,293. The original cash asset of the Board were only £337,492 and applications received exceed this amount, therefore, by over half a million pounds. After having paid the approved loans and grants of £268,293 there remains a sum of £69,199 only, and the Board is now considering how to expend the limited funds which remain to the best economic advantage of the Region.

Loans and grants approved to the 31st of March were distributed thus:—

	<i>Per cent</i>
General Agriculture ... ..	6.0
Mechanical Workshops, etc. ...	3.0
Lime Making Equipment ... ..	1.5
Timber and Woodwork ... ..	3.5
Corn Mills ... ..	0.1
Pioneer Oil Mills ... ..	10.4
Fisheries ... ..	0.7
Building Trade ... ..	0.8
Urban Development ... ..	74.0

The first annual report of the Eastern Regional Production Development Board has, as required by Ordinance No. 12 of 1949, now been laid on the table of this House and it will be seen that much sound planning has been done. Since the 31st of March, the end of the period covered by the report, a number of new projects have been proposed by the Board and approved by His Excellency, and some variations have been made to projects already approved. The approved projects now are:—

	£	s	d
Purchase of existing Pioneer Oil Mills ... ..	91,813	16	9
Erection of additional Pioneer Oil Mills ... ..	400,000	0	0
Palm Oil Estate, Calabar Division ... ..	300,000	0	0
Palm Oil Estate, Afikpo Division ... ..	60,000	0	0
Cashew Nut Industry ... ..	200,000	0	0
Cattle Ranch at Obudu ... ..	76,000	0	0
General Investigations ... ..	50,000	0	0
Marketing Publicity ... ..	3,000	0	0
Calabar-Arochuku Road ... ..	125,000	0	0
Obanliko-Old Iqwette Road ... ..	124,000	0	0
Artificial Manures Scheme ... ..	200,000	0	0
Kwa Falls Palm Oil Estate ... ..	119,744	0	0
Concentrates for Livestocks ... ..	2,400	0	0
	£1,751,957	16	9



The Kwa Falls Estate is now a going concern, and it is anticipated that the first cattle for the Obudu Cattle Ranch, which contains an area of some thirty-five square miles, will be on the Ranch in January. It is hoped that construction of the Calabar-Arochuku and Obanliko-Old Iqwette Roads, which will open up vast tracts of largely uncultivated agricultural land, will soon be started. The Palm Oil Estate in the Calabar Division, which will contain an area of some 10,000 acres, is a joint venture with the Colonial Development Corporation and a Mission composed of experts is shortly expected to investigate suitable areas for the plantation.

There are two projects to which I wish to invite particular attention. The first, the Artificial Manures Scheme, which is still in the preliminary stages of planning, is designed to bring to the door of farmers in the over-populated areas of the Calabar, Rivers, Owerri and Onitsha Provinces artificial manures, at a price they can afford to pay, which will increase the yields of their crops by some 75 per cent and will give them a corresponding increase in their profits. The importance of this project to the Eastern Region, with its rapidly increasing population and decreasing land fertility, cannot be over-estimated. If farmers can be persuaded, and persuaded they must be, to take advantage of the widespread distribution of artificials by the Board, the food production of the Region will be greatly increased even though no additional acreage is brought under cultivation. Another result, of considerable importance to us all, is that with increased production the prices of foodstuffs should tend to fall.

Secondly there is the Pioneer Oil Mill Scheme. These mills have been designed to introduce more efficient methods of production, and to ensure an increase in the quantity and an improvement in the quality of oil for export so that our local oil palm products will have a better chance of competing in the world's markets against similar products obtained in other parts of the world by plantation methods. At present the whole economy of this Region is related to the out-put of palm products which, for the time being, are commanding very high prices. There is no guarantee, however, that those high prices will continue indefinitely and, until other cash crops can be introduced and a more balanced economy planned for the Region, any great recession in prices might well have disastrous effects on our economy unless, by the widespread establishment of Pioneer Oil Mills, the quantity and quality of our local palm products can be greatly improved.

For these reasons the Pioneer Oil Mill Scheme is of major importance and the response of the people in the Abak, Aba and Owerri Divisions (which may justly be described as the heart of the Oil Palm belt) is disappointing. The inhabitants of those Divisions may well live to regret having listened to the counsels of individuals who, for selfish and shortsighted ends, have advised their peoples against acceptance of the mills offered by the Eastern Regional Production Development Board.

The present position with regard to the establishment of Pioneer Oil Mills is:—

Division	Mills Privately owned	Mills owned by the Board and in production	Mills under construction or awaiting construction for the Board
Calabar ..	—	1	2
Eket ..	—	1	2
Ikot Ekpene ..	—	—	4
Enyong ..	—	—	4
Opobo ..	—	1	—
Uyo ..	—	1	3
Victoria ..	5	—	—
Awka ..	1	—	—
Onitsha ..	—	—	2
Aba ..	1	1	3
Okigwi ..	1	1	3
Orlu ..	1	1	5
Owerri ..	1	—	3
Ahoada ..	—	1	3
Total ..	10	8	34

Just a year ago an Administrative Officer charged with the task of establishing community development on firm foundations in the Eastern Region took up his duties as Regional Community Development Officer. It was estimated that his task would take three years to complete, the first year being spent on a survey of the potentialities of the Region and the preparation of a plan in broad outline. In fact the plan has been prepared and is now being considered by me and my technical advisers. That portion of it that deals with the training of staff was examined and approved by experts at the Eastbourne Conference in April of this year, and parts of it have been in operation for some months.

In the meantime community development has continued in all the Provinces of the Region at a rapidly increasing rate in spite of the fact that the sum of £30,800 provided from current Nigerian revenue is less than half as large as the corresponding allocation of last year.

A marked feature of the work in 1950 has been the extent to which the missionary authorities have co-operated with officials in nearly every branch of community development, including the construction of villages to segregate lepers, mass literacy campaigns, and even in promoting the construction of large water storage tanks that collect their supplies of water from the roofs of schools and church buildings. The larger missionary societies also made arrangements for the Community Development Officer to lecture to and instruct both their teachers-in-training, and their headmasters during refresher courses. Lectures have been given on more than a dozen occasions in the last three months, and it is because I regard the village schoolmasters as potentially among the most important agents for the promotion of community development, and because the inculcation of a sense of community



service among the youths now being educated is most important for the future of the Region that I look forward to an increase in this type of co-operation between missionary authorities concerned with education, and officials and others concerned with the promotion of community development.

I propose at a later stage to call upon the Regional Community Development Officer to give to Members of this House a fuller account of community development in the Region but the following figures will illustrate my earlier statement that the rate of progress has been increasing greatly in 1950:—

Projects	1949		1950	
	Completed	Uncompleted	Completed	Uncompleted
Roads Miles .. .. .	121	143	147	331
Maternity Units .. ..	6	15	16	22
Village Halls .. .. .	2	5	1	11
Markets reconstructed ..	23	30	26	53
Trade Training Centres ..	—	—	5	7
Domestic Science Centres and Twineries.	2	4	2	—
Leper Segregation Villages ..	11	3	12	14
Schools, including Girl's Schools.	3	13	26	23
Water Tanks .. .. .	40	13	46	27
Spring Improvements and Wells.	4	7	41	39
Adult Literacy Classes ..	10	—	33	8

Other projects undertaken include bridge-building, cattle tracks, bicycle paths, postal agencies, bookshops, farm improvement schemes, co-operative loan societies, pottery workshops, textile centres, sports pavilions, embankments, village industries, swamp reclamation schemes and piers.

The form that community development has taken has varied from province to province in accordance with the varying needs of the people of the areas concerned. In the provinces of that part of Cameroons Trust Territory which form part of this Region where communications are inadequate, and resettlement of people of some of the more backward villages are needed, community development has taken the form of road construction particularly in Bamenda Province. A team of experts has been posted to the Cameroons Province, and has been studying the question of resettlement and community development, and should start work on a training scheme shortly.

In Onitsha Province the process of increasing village amenities has continued. The construction of vernacular schools with much voluntary assistance from villagers has been most noticeable, and during the year under review thirty village water tanks have been constructed through the co-operation of the Rural Water Supplies section of the Public Works Department and voluntary workers, under the general supervision of one Inspector of Works. Fourteen villages to house lepers have been built during the year.

With the help of the Commerce and Industries Department advances have been made in the establishment of cottage industries to such an extent in Owerri Province that the District Officer, Okigwi, was able to hold in November, and just as this Address was going to the Printer, a most successful exhibition of local crafts and industries. It is hoped that this will be the forerunner of many similar exhibitions.

In the Eket and Uyo Divisions of Calabar Province the instruction in homecraft and care of children given to women in their own villages by a Woman Education Officer has grown until it has the appearance of becoming a women's movement.

The erection of improved village schools has been the chief concern of the people of the Rivers Province. The village of Erema sent several of its men to Divisional headquarters to learn how to make bricks for the school building. The building has been completed and the people have made an eight mile motor road so that experts may visit them and advise on further development projects.

In Ogoja Province where the people are chiefly interested in agriculture the rice fields that cover formerly unused swamps are now a most noticeable feature of the countryside. In the Afikpo and Abakaliki Divisions alone over 10,000 acres were placed under rice this year. But the most significant development has been the introduction into Abakaliki Division of a scheme that is intended to lead to free universal education supported from an education rate that has been willingly accepted by the people of several parts of the Division.

Despite demands made on all of us to deal with the various emergencies that have arisen during the year political progress has continued apace. As Members of this House are well aware there have been a series of momentous official and unofficial meetings at which the plan for the future constitutional framework of Nigeria has been mapped out. That these meetings should have resulted in so large a measure of agreement is a reflection on the political wisdom of their members and is a hopeful augury for the future. The contributions at these meetings of Members of the Eastern House of Assembly have been invaluable and it would not be an exaggeration to say that they have more than once averted deadlock. The Region has good cause to be proud of its representatives.

The Ibadan Conference, at the beginning of the year, drew up the framework of the new Constitution based on the recommendations of the Regions which, in turn, as you will remember, were based on views put forward from the lowest levels in 1949. Since then compromises have been hammered out of apparently irreconcilable views and today the framework of the new Constitution is emerging. There are a number of minor points which still remain to be settled but during the coming year we shall be occupied mainly in filling in the framework, and in preparing



constitutional instruments and organising elections. It is not yet possible to draw up a firm time table but it is probable that this is the last Budget Address I shall be privileged to give to Members of this House as at present constituted. Our success so far has been based on team work and I know that I can continue to rely on the support and co-operation of all Members of this House during the epoch making months before its final dissolution.

During its Fourth Session, the House of Assembly met in December, 1949, and in February, July and August, 1950. The meeting in July was an Extraordinary one and was the first to be held in the new Council Chamber, but Wednesday, 2nd August, 1950 (the opening date of the August meeting) was regarded as the day the new Council Chamber was formally opened. There was a Guard of Honour supplied by the Enugu detachment of the Nigeria Police. At the Extraordinary Meeting in July an important motion arising from the report of the Fitzgerald Commission on the recent disorders in the Eastern Provinces was warmly debated and adopted unanimously.

Of the Bills considered by the House during the Fourth Session, the most important were the Eastern Region Local Government Bill, the Native Authority (Amendment) Bill, and the Nigerian Coal Corporation Bill.

The visiting Mission of the United Nations Trusteeship Council visited the Cameroons and Bamenda Provinces in November, 1949, too late for the inclusion of an account of their inspection in my last Budget Address. The Mission consisted of members from Iraq, Belgium, Mexico and the United States and was accompanied by six members of the Trusteeship Council Secretariat. Between 1st and 7th November they carried out a very full programme of inspection in the Victoria and Kumba Divisions and paid a shorter visit to Bamenda later in the month. The report of the Mission was published in February and later submitted to the Trusteeship Council. It is impossible to summarise this sixty page document but on the whole it may be said that the report was very favourable to the Administering Authority though it contained some criticisms on matters of detail. In British colonies freedom of expression is accepted, happily, as a matter of course and I would like to quote a passage from the report on this aspect of British administration:—

“The Mission feels it proper to refer here to the extent of the freedom of speech in the Cameroons under British administration. Everywhere it went it found evidence of that. Whether in public meetings or private interviews people expressed themselves with the utmost freedom. The Mission informed itself, moreover, on this question from the educated sections of the community, and was invariably assured of the happy existence of this freedom, a matter of which those persons were not only aware but appreciative. The Mission is glad to observe that this freedom of speech is a matter of worthy commendation”.



While it is impossible to quote scientifically accurate figures it is certain that the cost of living continues to rise. The reasons are not far to seek; the prices for export produce are higher than they have been for many years and these high prices have encouraged farmers to concentrate more on export produce than on food crops, imported goods cost more and Government expenditure, mainly on additional social services, communications, salaries and wage rates, none of which give any immediate return, is higher than ever before. The economy of this country is inevitably tied up with world economy and there has been a rise in the cost of living throughout the world since the war. Nevertheless measures are being taken which it is hoped will mitigate the inevitable hardship a rise in the cost of living brings in its train. It is obvious that the most important long-term measure must be to increase the amount of locally produced food and it is here that the plans of the Production Development Board for introducing cheap artificial fertilisers, for cattle ranching in the Ogoja Province, for extending rice production and for other schemes will be invaluable. Town dwellers are most hardly hit by a rise in the cost of living and rent control has already been introduced in Enugu and it is hoped that it will soon be introduced at Port Harcourt and perhaps elsewhere.

During the year there have been a number of disturbances in the Region the most serious being the Tiv-Obudu affray and the series of cold-blooded murders associated with the Okrika-Kalabari dispute. These were purely local in character. In days of grand scale political planning and constant assertions of the unity of the body politic these sad incidents serve to remind us that tribal animosities, sometimes expressed with primitive ferocity, are still not dead.

The Okrika-Kalabari dispute has its roots in the distant past but is kept alive by its economic implications. His Excellency appointed a Commission of Enquiry last year and after an exhaustive investigation the Report of this Commission was published in May and accepted almost in its entirety by His Excellency. It is certain that a solution popular with both parties would be impossible at this stage but it was hoped that the constructive recommendations made in the Report would provide a *modus vivendi* which would be acceptable to all those who recognised that the misery and cruelty this dispute has brought in its train must be ended. At first it appeared that these hopes were to be realised but in early August Okrika fishermen were attacked in force when some distance from their town and it is feared that some 116 persons lost their lives, although the bodies of less than a third of this number have been recovered. Extra Police were immediately drafted to the area and intensive and rigorous investigations are still being pursued in circumstances made peculiarly difficult by the terrain and the lack of co-operation which has been evident in certain quarters.



In Obudu District there was a minor affray between the people of the Bette (Obudu) Clan and the neighbouring Tivs in the Benue Province in January and a more serious encounter in May. On the latter occasion only prompt Administrative and Police action prevented the affray assuming the proportions of a full-scale tribal war. Of the twenty-one deaths which resulted only five were actually inflicted during the fighting, the remaining casualties being in the nature of murders behind the lines. One hundred and four Obudu persons have been convicted on various charges in connection with the affray or subsequent murders and given sentences ranging from death, in twelve instances, to small fines. Also in Ogoja Province there have been the usual crop of minor affrays resulting from land disputes, the most serious being between Mgbo (Abakaliki) and Agala-Idoma (Oturkpo) people, the Ikun (Afikpo) and Okon (Bende) people, and between the villages of Ofunbonga and Nkum Akpanbe in Obubra Division.

In Onitsha Province tear gas had to be used to disperse a mob of women demonstrating last March in connection with the long-standing Onitsha-Obosi land dispute, and breaches of the peace over other land cases in Awka Division were only averted by the timely intervention of the Native Authorities. In September there was an affray in Awgu which resulted in thirty-nine persons being convicted by the Magistrate.

In the Bamenda Province a quarrel between the Fon of Nsaw and the Fai Ndzendzef, the next most important person in the hierarchy, brought about minor disorders which were only relieved when the latter voluntarily left Nsaw territory. There was also an unfortunate incursion by the Bali people against the villagers of Mengen Muwo which resulted in the wounding of twenty of the latter and the arrest of a number of the former.

Of politically inspired breaches of the peace the most serious and widespread came as an aftermath to the Iva Valley tragedy and have already been dealt with by the Commission of Inquiry and considered by this House. During most of the year however disaffected and self-seeking persons have attempted to exploit the imagined grievances of ex-servicemen for their own subversive ends. "Unemployed Ex-Servicemen", which is a name of local significance in that it applies in the Eastern Region to Ex-Servicemen not in Government Service or employed by the large commercial firms, have been a perpetual menace to the peace and security of the Aba and Umuahia areas of the Owerri Province and on no fewer than five occasions threats to the public peace have necessitated the substantial re-inforcement of local police. Until these men can be made to realise that, like all other members of the public, they are subject to the law it will continue to be necessary to keep a large number of police available to deal with any disorders which may arise. All the alleged grievances of a tangible nature which these men have advanced have been, as they will continue to be, investigated by my officers, and it is certain



that no justifiable collective grievance remains, whilst no private grievance which it lies within the power of Government to redress has been neglected. I take this opportunity of stressing, yet once more, Government's determination to enforce the law and to maintain public order.

Over five years have elapsed since the end of the war and by this time practically all ex-servicemen with suitable technical qualifications and records have been absorbed into civilian life and those with insufficient qualifications have been given every encouragement to accept the unskilled employment for which alone they are qualified.

I am confident that this House and all responsible members of the community, including ex-servicemen, of whom I am proud to be one, will agree that in this country ex-servicemen have received and are still receiving fair and generous treatment and that it would not be in the interests of the country as a whole to yield to their increasingly extravagant demands.

In the Calabar Division inter-tribal jealousies resulted in a number of untoward incidents, but the vigour and vigilance of the Native Authorities has, for the time being, prevailed.

The measures to sound public opinion on proposed local government changes referred to in my Address at the last Budget Session culminated in the preparation of a Bill which, with certain minor amendments has been accepted by this House and passed by the Legislative Council and is now law. I am sure Members will wish to join me in congratulating Messrs Beaumont, Briggs and Stevens, who jointly bore so large a measure of responsibility for the extremely comprehensive Eastern Region Local Government Ordinance. As Members will realise the introduction of Local Government will involve intensive preparations in the areas concerned and the present programme envisages, as a start, the creation of two counties in the Calabar Province during the coming year. This year fifteen men from the Region attended a five-month course in the United Kingdom during which they studied different aspects of the English Local Government system. Judging by the reports written by these men, and by the reports received about them, the course was of very great value and it is hoped to send fifteen more men on a similar course next year. Some forty persons from this Region attended a short course in local government arranged by the extra-Mural Studies Department of the University College of Ibadan in July.

In the Calabar Province intensive preparations for the introduction of local government have been proceeding in the Ikot Ekpene and Eket areas. In the former area the original proposal that the county should include the present Enyong Division has been modified and it is now likely that a separate Enyong County, including the Biase people now in Ogoja Province, will be formed. The preparations for the Ikot Ekpene County are now



behind schedule but it is still hoped that it will be possible to introduce local government there on 1st April, 1951. Preparations for the Eket County have been less involved and the preliminary report has already been received.

Intensive preparation has begun in the Onitsha Province and there the emphasis has been on the building up of the staff organisation on which the future system will depend. The general policy in this Province is the establishment of Native Authority Councils corresponding to the future District Councils, where these do not already exist; the adoption of Standing Rules applicable to a local government committee system; departmentalisation of Native Authority staff to correspond with the Committees of the Council; the building up of satisfactory office records; the introduction of a routine system for revenue and tax collection; and the posting of an Assistant District Officer or Local Government Auxiliary to work with the Native Authority organisation as Council Secretary. In effect in the Onitsha Province a shadow local government organisation is already being created within the framework of the Native Authority system.

Although it is some time before local government will be introduced to other parts of the Region, everywhere preparations are being made for its advent and the ground prepared by re-organising the Native Authorities so as to adapt them as far as possible to the probable framework of the future local government.

There have been no great changes in the constitution of the Ogoja Province Native Authorities but the work of consolidation and reform has continued in every division. Elections were held throughout the Abakaliki Division last January and February to the Clan Councils and thence to the Divisional Native Authority. These elections were a great success and not a single petition or complaint was received. This Native Authority is a pioneer in the field of compulsory school attendance measures, an Order to enforce which in certain areas was passed in May, and it is in Abakaliki that the first scheme in the Region for introducing Local Education Authorities and Committees under section 26 of the Education Ordinance and for raising education rates will be started. In Afikpo Division the process of federating the thirteen former Native Authorities into three groups has continued and the next stage will be federation to conform with the future Local Government County. The Obudu District Native Authority has continued to show an active and responsible interest in public affairs and the members acquitted themselves well at the time of the Tiv-Obudu affair. Measures of unification proceed more slowly in the large, comparatively thinly populated and unhomogeneous Ogoja, Obubra and Ikom Divisions.

In the Cameroons Province there is little change to report in Native Administration affairs although there are signs of a new awareness and interest in local government affairs in the Kumba Division.



In the Rivers Province meetings and secret oral elections were held in all villages of the Ahoada Division to the east of the River Sombreiro and as a result a new federated Council has been formed as the Native Authority for this area. The five Native Authorities to the west of the Sombreiro have already agreed to federate and the foundation will then have been laid for the formation of two Local Government District Councils. In the Degema Division the elections to the Kalabari Native Authority have had to be postponed and this Native Authority, so carefully re-organised only three years ago, has been unable to stand up to the impact of Kalabari tribal sentiment and is now in eclipse although routine is still carried on successfully by the Executive Committee.

The Native Authorities of the Bamenda Province, newly re-organised during the last few years, have, the Resident reports, learnt a lot about their responsibilities and duties and he considers that their progress augurs well for the future. New cattle control rules have been passed in all save one area and a new spirit of co-operation between farmers and cattle owners is evident. The number of cattle in the Province is now 165,000.

From the Owerri Province the Resident reports that the Ngwa Council, though still rent by factions, has achieved some valuable results particularly through its committees. Elsewhere in the Province the federal councils have proved both responsible, particularly in their efforts to maintain the peace, and representative, but the smaller group councils are reported to be generally ineffective.

In the Calabar and Onitsha Provinces, as mentioned above, the process of preparing the people and Native Authorities for the introduction of local government has reached an advanced stage in most areas though there is still a great deal of preparatory work to be done in some divisions, notably the Nsukka, Calabar and Opobo Divisions.

The people of Port Harcourt are learning in the hard way that under a democratic system the electorate is entirely responsible for the kind of council it gets. Only a very small proportion of those entitled to vote at the elections did in fact exercise their votes, and many who neglected the opportunity are now regretting that they must wait until the term of office of the council has expired before they can once more exercise their rights as electors. The Town Council's meetings and the meetings of its committees are prolonged by the reluctance of members to allow their executive staff to deal with even the smallest matters of administrative detail with the result that action on more important matters, such as rent control, is delayed indefinitely. Owing to the failure of three of the elected members to re-register as voters three seats became vacant on 1st January. Polling was extremely low, forty persons only voting in "C" Ward and one hundred in "D" Ward where originally 489 and 626 voters had registered respectively.



Great interest was aroused in Onitsha over the reform of the Town Native Authority. All sections agreed that reform was necessary but there was considerable divergence of opinion as to the form it should take. In the end a compromise solution which appeared at first to be acceptable to all parties was reached but, at the last moment, the Non-Onitsha Ibos boycotted the elections as a protest against the decision to base them on a simple, single-voting system. Despite the boycott 49 per cent of the electorate went to the polls and the organisation of the election, the delimitation of wards, the compilation of registers, the hearing of objections and the conduct of the polling reflects great credit on the administrative and other staff responsible. The new council inherits a formidable task from its predecessor but has already made considerable strides in adopting recognised local government procedure. In this it has been assisted by the secondment of an Administrative Officer to act as Town Clerk.

The Enugu Township Advisory Board, although its members have but slight local influence, represents very fairly the views of the general public. The outstanding event of the year has been the acceptance of an increased Township rate, based on a new property assessment. It is estimated that this rate will bring in £6,300 a year as compared to the £1,000 produced under the old assessment. During the year a fully representative Advisory Committee was set up to fix maximum rents under the Increase of Rent (Restriction) Ordinance. The recommendations of the Committee have been accepted in full and came into force on 1st August. The Township has decided to remedy the deplorable state of the roads and drains by a bold scheme which, at a cost of £100,000, should provide each road in the town with a tarred surface and concrete drains. Last New Year's Eve saw the illumination of the first batch of street lights at Enugu.

Aba is following, somewhat reluctantly, in Enugu's wake and it is hoped that the people there will come to realise that the improvements they all demand and which are so necessary, must be paid for out of their own rates. Proposals for widening the representative basis of the Township Advisory Board are now under consideration.

Financially most Native Authorities are in a healthy state, as in many areas there were increases in the direct tax rate last financial year. But already local government practice is being anticipated and schemes for rating for specific purposes, *e.g.*, school buildings, maternity services, leper isolation villages, etc., are under consideration. Rating systems, under which levies are made on the population for specific local benefits, show signs of meeting with general approval in the areas in which rates have been raised. This spirit is a healthy sign and encourages great hope for the future of local government.

At the end of the year a Commission, with Mr Justice Brooke as Chairman and three Members of this House as members, began investigations into the Native Court system in the Eastern



Provinces. The Commission has yet to visit the Bamenda and Cameroons Provinces and make its report and at this stage it would be improper to comment further than to note that the terms of reference were comprehensive and that the Commission has nearly completed the task of hearing oral evidence or receiving memoranda of evidence from all sections of the public.

In all provinces the reform and re-organisation of the Native Courts begun some years ago has continued and in most areas is nearly completed. In general this has taken the form of closing down redundant Courts and replacing mass benches by panels of members appointed by name by the Resident. As noted in my last Budget Address this system is not always popular with some people who still consider that membership should be based on a representational system rather than on the personal fitness of the Court member to hold judicial office. Fees have now been increased throughout the Region but in some provinces, particularly Onitsha Province, Native Court expenditure is greatly in excess of Native Court revenue.

Native Court statistics reveal little marked change in the number of cases heard or placed on Appeal or Review. Though there are variations of up to 10 per cent in some provinces or divisions, neither increase nor decrease seems possessed of any particular significance.

#### Agriculture

The Senior Staff position has made a limited change for the better during the year but the increasing demands made upon officers for general extension work and advisory services, especially in dealing with applications for loans from the Eastern Regional Development Board, throw a great strain upon the organisation of the Department.

The season was more favourable than the previous year for food crops with the exception of the late planted rice crop. This suffered a set back owing to a prolonged dry spell in August. Market prices of foodstuffs are keeping pace with the mounting price levels of export crops, consumer goods and wages.

The output of the oil palm industry remains excellent, as will be seen from the following table of graded produce:—

1st September to 31st August	Palm Oil (tons)	Palm Kernels (tons)
1947-48	136,972	177,480
1948-49	145,907	190,976
1949-50	149,797	177,216

The distribution of palm-presses, after a long delay, was resumed towards the middle of the year but the waiting list in main oil palm areas is still a long one. When it can be satisfied, the industry over a great part of Region will have become partially mechanised in a remarkably short time. Officers were employed throughout the



palm belt in assisting the Administration in choosing sites for Pioneer Oil Mills. The demand for improved oil palm seedlings has also showed no signs of slackening and 500,000 controlled pollinated and 80,000 open pollinated seeds produced by the Oil Palm Research Organisation have been put into germinators, as against 350,000 the previous year. Steps have been taken to improve the standard of germination and nursery work so that a higher proportion than ever of seed will reach the distribution stage when it is two years old.

A major feature of research and extension services at the present time is the work being done on artificial fertilisers and lime. Research on the effect of different combinations of fertilisers on different levels is being carried out in widely dispersed sites both on upland food crops and swamp rice and in spite of unforeseen difficulties should produce valuable results which will directly benefit the farmer. Fertiliser demonstrations have again been widespread and many have been spectacularly successful. The interest evinced by the farmers in successful experiments is such that an increasing number of them can confidently be expected to pay for the artificial manures they need next season. Arrangements are therefore being made for adequate quantities to be made available for trial sales prior to the introduction of sales on a commercial scale. The successful outcome of this development project should be of immense value in raising the volume of food production in the infertile and crowded areas of the Region. Owing to lack of staff, it has not yet been possible to put the lime crushing machine into operation, so that unfortunately there is available a limited output of burnt lime from Awgu sufficient only for experimental and demonstration needs.

*Mechanisation.*—With the appointment of an expatriate Mechanic Demonstrator it has been possible to conduct preliminary experiments with two forms of tractor and complementary implements at Abakaliki farm. The new workshops will shortly be completed by the Public Works Department. Though it is early yet to pronounce definitely on the possibilities of successful mechanical cultivation in the Eastern Provinces, it seems probably that its greatest value will lie in the easy and rapid cultivation of rice swamps preparatory to planting. In experiments on upland farms difficulty has been experienced in so stumping the land that the machinery is not damaged. A wide extension of tractor cultivation is unlikely in the overcrowded parts of the Region owing to the fragmentation of holdings, the very common uses of shrub fallows and the unsuitability of the staple crops, yams and cassava, for mechanised cultivation. The three departmental rice mills have been kept busy throughout the year and another one will be opened shortly in Ogoja Province. It is considered that these mills, after prolonged trial, have proved themselves sufficiently profitable for two of them to be sold to private enterprise. Such mills are an undoubted incentive to the greater cultivation of paddy.



Further useful information has been obtained on the behaviour of *Clappertonia ficifolia*, the wild fibre, under cultivation and satisfactory reports on its capacity to be spun into produce bags when mixed with jute have been obtained. The perfection of the retting process is incomplete and solutions are being sought at the Provincial Farm, Abak. Stock plots are being planted so that intending planters can easily obtain supplies.

#### **Co-operative**

The assets of Co-operative Thrift and Credit Societies showed substantial advancement in the Calabar Province, assets rising from £28,320 to £43,514 and membership from 11,311 to 13,390. Lack of interest by members and, perhaps, the increased cost of living resulted, however, in a decline in the number and membership of Thrift and Loan Societies. There was a slight increase in the assets of these societies, £84,399 as compared with £83,634 in 1949. All but two Co-operative Produce Marketing Societies devoted their activities to cocoa, the two exceptions being coffee societies in Bamenda. With no Senior Service supervision the Cameroons Cocoa Societies showed little or no improvement but the societies in the Umuahia area continued to prosper. An officer has now been appointed to supervise co-operation within the Cameroons Province, including by arrangement with the Chairman, schemes on the Cameroons Development Corporation estates. Co-operative Village Shops found difficulty in obtaining goods at wholesale rates, and profits and the enthusiasm of members declined.

Co-operative Maternity Centres have proved to be popular institutions, but they require careful "nursing" in the early stages. Other interesting Co-operative activities were the formation of seventeen local Co-operative Unions, which act as agencies for the purchase and sale of consumer goods and produce and supervise primary societies, and the formation of the Calabar Provincial Co-operative Thrift and Credit Union, which acts as a central bank and whose assets have doubled during the period under review. The Ikot Ekpene Raffia Guild fared no better under the supervision of the Department of Commerce and Industries and made a net loss of £456. The Akwete Weavers' Society and the Eket Fishing Supply Societies are dependent for their success upon the supply situation. The Awka Carvers' Society received a loan from Development Funds for purchasing timber for seasoning.

#### **Forestry**

Consolidation of forest reserves has continued during the last year but the main objective of the Department has been to start exploitation with planned management in the reserves. A small start has at last been made in the Stubbs Creek Reserve in Calabar Province and logging started there in April. In Kumba difficulties have arisen, over both the questions of reservation and exploitation. It is hoped as a temporary arrangement to constitute protected forests instead of the proposed forest reserves and to issue a permit



to a French Company to work in the Southern Bakundu Reserve for a period of two years. This will be a start but it is hoped to replace the protected forests by forest reserves and a permit for two years by a long term agreement. It is also hoped to start exploitation of the Bende Reserves by a local timber contractor. This will not be a large scheme, but these reserves are situated in a thickly populated district in which there is little other forest and exploiting them should be a profitable undertaking. Unfortunately nothing further has been done towards exploitation of the Ogoja forests. There is however little doubt that they will eventually prove very valuable. The further development of the mines at Abakaliki is certain to provide a market for timber and it is probable that it is only because the mines development has not gone forward as quickly as had been expected that plans for the exploitation of the reserves have not developed.

Development funds have been asked for for improving reserves in Onitsha and Bende and for Eucalyptus plantations in Bamenda. In the hopes that these funds will be approved work in a small way has already been started in Bamenda and in the Mamu Forest Reserve, Onitsha Province. This work should be of special value in Bende and Onitsha where the small area of forest and the large demand for timber makes any forest valuable. Work on fuel plantations has continued in Bamenda and Onitsha and in the pitprop plantation at Enugu.

#### **Commerce and Industries**

The most important development of the year is the decision by the Colonial Development Corporation to establish a sack factory and textile mill at Onitsha. Negotiations for the site have proved difficult as the greater part of the 300 acres required is subject to litigation and occupied by squatters. It is hoped that construction will begin at once. As the project is likely within a comparative short time to employ up to 3,000 workers its potential for the development of Onitsha as an industrial centre is enormous.

The Awgu lime industry made a profit of £138 during the past year but as the Agricultural Department propose to exploit the lime deposits at Emene in the Udi Division it is likely that the Awgu industry will have to rely in future mainly on the production of colour washes, for which difficulty has been experienced in obtaining technical advice.

A Pottery Officer of the Department of Commerce and Industries carried out a survey of clay deposits in the Eastern Provinces during April, and reported favourably on, among others, those of Ishiago in Afikpo Division. The officer has experienced great difficulty in getting the potters, both men and women, to attend courses of training in improved methods.

Reference has already been made to Pioneer Oil Mills and rice mills both of which are proving useful and popular.



The Textile Officer at Aba conducts a weaving school there and tours the Region advising local weavers on improved methods. The Fisheries Officer at Port Harcourt continues to interest himself in the promotion of fish farming and off-shore fishing activities in the Region. A team of Gold Coast fishermen continued their demonstration of sea-fishing methods.

#### **Electricity**

The Electricity Corporation of Nigeria Ordinance, setting up a Corporation to take over all Government owned electricity undertakings will come into force on 1st January, 1951.

The demand for extension of electric light and power continues to outstrip capacity. At Enugu, however, it was possible to introduce street lighting in certain areas. At Port Harcourt the new boiler for the first extension has been constructed and should now be in operation. Delivery of machinery for an extension to the Power Station and boiler room has begun.

#### **Mines**

The Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria have applied for two mining leases for lead and zinc near Ishiago in Afikpo Division. The leases have not yet been granted owing to legal difficulties which have arisen in connection with the "customary takings" of the landowners. In the Cameroons prospecting in Bamenda Division during the dry season failed to reveal any mineral deposits of economic importance. The activities of the Mines Development Syndicate in Abakaliki Division have largely been confined to underground development at Nyeba and exploratory drilling. All underground development ceased on 31st March as the pumps available were unable to deal with the water in the deeper workings. Three American mining engineers inspected the area in February and the America Smelting and Refined Corporation Inc. have shown interest in the development of these areas.

During the absence of adequate supervision in the Enugu coal mines due to the November disturbances and their repercussions considerable damage was done to the mine workings. The placing of the Iva and Obwetti mines under separate management appears to have had a beneficial effect on production which was higher during July and August than at any time during the last eighteen months. The output per man shift, however, remains deplorably low compared with standards elsewhere in the world. A deterioration in the quality of coal due to the appearance of thick dirt bands within some parts of the seams is causing some concern. The Nigeria Coal Corporation Ordinance, 1950, comes into force on 1st January, 1951. A coal seam of fair quality has been found just south of Afikpo.

The Shell D'Arcy Exploration Parties continued their investigations for mineral oil by means of geological reconnaissance and geophysical prospecting. A site south of Owerri was selected for an exploratory deep well. The Company transferred its prospecting operations to the Western Region in December, 1949.



### Geological Survey

Geological investigations have been carried out in the area between Nsukka and the River Anambra. Outcrops of coal were examined, but none of them was of economic thickness. Underground problems at the Colliery also received attention, and geological advice was given at various times to the Colliery authorities. The Department is also at present supervising a drilling programme for coal to the west of Enugu in connection with development of the Colliery.

A detailed survey of the Abakaliki lead zinc areas was commenced in January, 1950, and at present two geologists are engaged on the work. Though it will take some time before the final results are available, the findings arrived at so far are important, and will be of considerable use to the Company which is investigating the deposits.

The suitability of the thick, soft, white sands, which are exposed high on the escarpment west of Enugu, for the making of glass was investigated. The possibility of utilising the clay deposits near Enugu for the manufacture of bricks has also been examined. Much time has been spent in investigation of limestones throughout the Region to ascertain its value either for the manufacture of cement or for use as a fertiliser. Work is still in progress and the conclusions cannot yet be predicted.

### Lands

The Regional Lands Registry at Enugu was extended, with effect from 1st October, 1949, to include all instruments relating to land in the Eastern Provinces. During the year 789 instruments of various kinds were registered.

The Department has not yet been able to take over full responsibility for the control and administration of Crown Lands and much of the work continues to be performed under the control and supervision of the Administration. The Administration of Crown Lands at Port Harcourt, Aba, Umuahia and Enugu will be taken over and paid for by their Town Planning Authorities who will receive up to 95 per cent of the rents accruing to Government from Crown Leases. The revised estimate of revenue for 1950-51 from Crown Land rents is approximately £33,000.

Action continued during the year under section 10 of the Niger Lands Transfer Ordinance, Cap. 149 and of the forty-four items of vested trust land situated in the Eastern Provinces twenty-nine have been abandoned *in toto*, two have been abandoned in part and six are being retained and the action on the remaining seven will, it is hoped, be completed by 31st March.

Draft specimen rules under section 25 (1) (xxvii) of the Native Authority Ordinance, conferring upon Native Authorities powers to control the alienation of land to strangers, were prepared by a Committee appointed by me for the purpose, and sent to



Government for approval in principle by His Excellency. They were returned with the detailed comments of the Commissioner of Lands, and are now being examined in the light of those comments.

A Bill excluding corporate bodies established under any Ordinance from the provisions of the Native Lands Acquisition Ordinance has been accepted by the Legislature, and will, it is expected, shortly become law. By recent and pending legislation, many corporate bodies have been, or will be, granted powers to acquire land for their own use. This will, in large measure, relieve the Nigerian Government of the unpleasant and difficult duty of compulsorily acquiring land, except for its own use.

With the transfer of much of the administration of Crown Lands to Planning Authorities, and a reduction in the number of public acquisitions, it is hoped that the Department will be able to proceed more rapidly with the improvement of land records and the solution of the long-standing problems with which it is faced.

### Survey

During the year twenty-three surveys were carried out for Government, of which some of the more important are an extension to the Agricultural Department's farm site at Bambui, Mamfe Government Station, an extension to Enugu Aerodrome and a portion of the layout of Diobu Land at Port Harcourt. In addition, twenty lease surveys for companies of private individuals were undertaken. On 31st August, 1950, twenty-eight surveys for Government and twenty-four private surveys were outstanding.

The Training Centre had seventeen Survey Assistants (these posts have now been amalgamated with others under the designation of Junior Technical Staff) in training at the beginning of the period. During the year there was a further intake of twenty-eight, and a total of thirty-six successfully completed the course on various dates and were posted to the different regions for field survey duty, including eight to the Eastern Region. Two Native Administration employees, one from Eket and the other from Udi, also successfully completed the Survey Assistants' training course. The centre closed down until further notice with the passing-out of the last class in May, 1950.

The Royal Air Force photographic squadron, which has been photographing various parts of Nigeria for topographical mapping by the Directorate of Colonial Surveys, was unable to make much progress in the Eastern Region during the year owing to adverse weather conditions, the greatest obstacle being the prevalence of low cloud. The chartered air-survey plane working under the orders of the Director of Surveys photographed a number of towns and other areas, among which may be mentioned Enugu, Onitsha, part of Port Harcourt, Ikot Ekpene, Afikpo, Stubbs Creek, Eket Bar and an area of Calabar Province in the neighbourhood of Odukpani.



## Education

Progress in the educational field is by necessity slow and it cannot be claimed that any startling developments can be reported during the year under review.

The planned development of teacher training and secondary education proceeded smoothly. The Government teacher-training centres for men at Uyo and for women at Enugu are nearing completion. The total amount spent in capital grants to Voluntary Agency Teacher Training Centres under Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes has now reached over £195,000 and nearly all the centres assisted under these schemes are practically complete. All except one are in good, if not full, working order and it is expected that the production of trained teachers from these and other centres will this year be almost 800. These will prove a welcome addition to the staffs of primary schools, where the proportion of trained teachers is still only about one-fifth of the total.

Capital Expenditure on Voluntary Agency Secondary Schools, under Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes, is now little short of £300,000, but only at the Government College, Umuahia, has visible progress been made in Government schemes. The Government Girls' Secondary School at Enugu will, it is hoped, be put in hand next year. The upward expansion of Owerri Government Boys' Secondary School has begun, but this project is not assisted under Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes. The first double class is being admitted into the Government College, Umuahia, this year, the first step towards its expansion into a full double stream secondary school.

It is of interest to note that when the Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes for secondary education are complete there will be five girls' secondary schools in the Eastern Provinces, all but one of which will be double stream. Though this will be sufficient for immediate needs, the pace of expansion of primary education of girls is such that it may not be long before all these five schools are filled to capacity.

In primary schools the policy is to ensure that those which are at present assisted are staffed to the full requirements of the Education Code before there can be a material increase in the number of assisted schools. There are now 3,012 assisted schools in the Region, of which 2,272 are Junior Primary, and 740 are Senior Primary. In view of the situation regarding staffing, which has been mentioned already, there can be no doubt that the policy is a correct one. At the same time provision is made in the Grant-in-Aid Regulations whereby assistance can be given, under certain conditions, towards the payment of qualified teachers in unassisted schools.

The cost of primary education, in relation to regional revenues, is causing anxiety. Grants-in-aid to primary schools is now about eighteen per cent of regional revenue. As such grants increase



every year, apart from the question of Temporary Addition to Rates of Pay, the time may not be far distant when additional means of financing primary education must be sought. With this end in view a Committee has been set up to enquire into the possibilities of raising Education Rates in the Eastern Provinces and the report of this Committee will shortly be considered by a Select Committee of the House.

In technical education, the Trade Centre at Enugu began work early this year, and there are now 200 apprentices in training, divided between the eight courses at present available which are:—General Mechanics, Motor Mechanics, Sheet Metal Workers, Blacksmiths, Carpenters, Cabinet Makers, Painters and Polishers, and Electricians.

The first Handicraft Centre, at which primary school boys will be given skilled instruction in various crafts, has been completed at Enugu and will soon start work. A second such Centre is being built at Calabar and will be followed by others at the larger centres of population.

The number of Government Domestic Science Centres remains the same as last year—thirteen. These are a very real feature of girls' education and the number will be increased as trained staff becomes available.

Adult Education is still in need of an Education Officer who can give his whole time to organisation within the Region. At the same time much has been done and it has been possible to post a whole time supervising teacher for adult literacy work; interest has been maintained in all existing schemes though expansion has not been possible.

In the somewhat specialised field in Adult Education work amongst women, which includes some elementary domestic science, the Woman Education Officers at Bansa and Uyo have much to report. A setback at Bansa was offset by increased interest in other parts of the Bamenda Province, while at and near Uyo the enthusiasm of the women, and the progress achieved has been remarkable.

A beginning has just been made with the new Rural Education Centre at Bambui in the Bamenda Division. Meanwhile the Rural Education Centre at Umuahia, where there are now two Rural Education Officers stationed permanently, continues its good work.

The staff position is still very inadequate on the inspectorate side, and the addition to the total establishment of the Senior Service of the Department by recruitment and promotion, of eight Education Officers, two of whom are on a temporary basis, has done little to alleviate the situation in the provinces, where at least double the existing number of Education Officers is required.



### Medical

The Liaison Committee of the Eastern House of Assembly have been actively engaged in the discussion of policy and formulating of plans for future Medical Development. In addition to valuable advisory duties, the Committee is of great value in interpreting departmental policy to fellow members of the House and to the general public.

A report of the staff position is little more than a repetitive catalogue of shortages of Medical Officers and Nursing Sisters, as well as of Pharmacists, Midwives and Nurses. The first is increased by the tendency of several Nigerian Medical Officers to show a preference, after qualification, to establish themselves in the United Kingdom National Health Services. The shortage of Sisters, through insufficient recruitment and resignation on marriage, has been partly remedied by the employment of temporary Sisters resident locally and by promotion from the Junior Service Staff.

The occurrence of small pox in numerous foci throughout the Region is still one of the greatest menaces to Public Health. Over 7,000 cases have occurred with a thousand deaths, and this is a considerable increase on last year's figures. One and a half million vaccinations have been performed, but vaccination is still actively resisted in many quarters. Special teams have been drafted to Onitsha and Ogoja, from Field Units. All local staff have been concentrated on anti-small pox work in the other affected areas.

Considerable progress has been made in the work of the established leprosy control settlements of Rivers, Owerri and Onitsha Provinces, in pursuance of their policy of segregation of all infected cases of leprosy. A contribution of tremendous importance has been made to leprosy work in the Eastern Region as a result of research work carried out by the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association in co-operation with Government. It has now been established to our satisfaction that diaminodephenyl sulphone is the drug of choice for the treatment of leprosy. It has been found to be far more efficacious than hydnocarpus oil and is much cheaper. This treatment is expected to increase the turn-over of cases and to enable available resources in the Region to cope with the problem of endemic leprosy. Each of the Settlements in Osiomo, Oji River and Uzuakoli has over 1,000 cases. In them, infective patients have priority of admission. The results of treatment are very gratifying as evidenced by the fact that one quarter of the population of 1,000 in Uzuakoli, for example, were discharged, symptom free, during the year.

*Filariasis loa loa* has been the subject of special investigation. The Research Team have acquired a sufficient body of knowledge both of the breeding sites and the fly vector (*chrysops silacea*) in Kumba and other areas and of the habits of immature and adult



fly to allow them to venture shortly on experimental control methods. They have also acquired data on infection rates, period of biting and the effectiveness of repellents.

In this research and in investigation into the general health of the population, the Cameroons Medical Field Unit, which is the forerunner of our establishment of three Mobile Units for the Region, has carried out much important work. The Units, consisting of a Medical Officer, Superintendent, and about thirty trained personnel are proving excellent instruments for carrying out detailed health surveys of the large numbers of the population and providing mass treatment of prevalent diseases. For instance, in a survey of 34,000, the yaws incidence was established at 10.2 per cent and in all cases (about 3,500), treatment was carried out. In a considerable portion of these cases, the new form of intensive one-day treatment with arsenicals was employed with good results.

Other prevalent conditions noted and treated at surveys included round worm (over fifty per cent), hook worm (thirty per cent), scabies (twenty-six per cent), and treatment was given in all cases.

In the Brass Division, a new focus of Sleeping Sickness was discovered in Lobia; fifteen cases were found representing an infection rate of about three per cent. In part of Bamenda, a similar incidence of three per cent was shown. With the persistence of the disease in the Mamfe area and in several parts of Ogoja, Sleeping Sickness is to be reckoned with as one of the major problems of the Region, and the establishment of the West African Institute for Trypanosomiasis and the forthcoming proposals to extend the provisions of the Sleeping Sickness Ordinance to include the Eastern Region, are timely and necessary.

A steady programme of improvement of water supply by the Public Works Department, and by Native Administration Sanitary Overseers, has been carried out resulting in the completion of about fifty small rural supply projects in each province. The work consists of protecting shallow wells, impounding springs, the provision of rain water tanks and other methods.

There is still a reluctance on the part of many Native Administrations to adopt methods of building control. In new lay-outs difficulties are encountered in getting the Authorities to appreciate the grave congestion which results from building rules which permit the covering of fifty per cent of plots. Officers of the department and Local Authorities are doing much to remedy this. Emphasis is being laid on improved housing and environmental sanitation as the foundation of any true improvement in health. A major part of the duties of the Sanitary Inspectorate consists of house to house visiting and inspection. During the period under review, an average of 12,500 houses were inspected per month in the main towns of Aba, Calabar, Port Harcourt, Enugu and Victoria. A quarter of these were found to have some sanitary defect. The



great majority were remedied on advice from the Health Officer, and formal prosecution was required in only about eighty cases per month.

The greatest factors in health education have been the Education Department's well organised teaching of rural hygiene in elementary schools and the volume of teaching which goes on in the Ante-natal Centres which are such a popular bi-weekly feature of most Government, Mission and Native Administration Maternity Centres throughout the Region. A successful Health Week in Owerri was organised by the Medical Department, Administration and the Public Relations Officer with voluntary assistance. The experiences of this are being collated and made available for similar ventures throughout the Region.

A modern residential Nurses Preliminary Training School at Aba was established from the Colonial Development and Welfare Funds and was opened on the 4th of July, 1949. Twenty males and twenty-eight females have completed the Preliminary Six Month's Training Courses and were thereafter posted to approved Government Training Hospitals in Enugu, Aba and Port Harcourt. From these Hospitals sixty-six nurses qualified for registration by the Nigeria Nursing Council during the period under review. In the Medical Department's two senior schools for Midwives in Aba and Calabar, six Grade I Midwives qualified. A Sanitary Inspectors Training School in Aba, established from the Colonial Development and Welfare Funds, has completed its first year. It has trained seventeen Native Administration Overseers and has embarked on an advanced course for Government Sanitary Inspectors leading to the standard of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

During the year a maternity unit has been added to the Owerri Hospital and a thirty-bed female ward to Abakaliki Hospital. At Onitsha the new hospital and at Aba the new maternity unit are very nearly completed. Over 40,000 patients were treated in Government Hospital Wards and over 400,000 new cases were treated in the Out-patient Departments of these Hospitals. Over 15,000 major operations and 12,000 minor operations were performed. Grateful acknowledgment is made of the great debt which the Region owes to the medical work of the Missions. In twelve Hospitals, over 100,000 Out-patient and In-patient cases have been treated, and in addition, numerous small Mission Maternity Homes have played a major part in providing Ante-natal care and in improving the safety of child birth among 2,000 mothers. In addition, they have trained thirty-six Grade II Midwives in the twelve Centres recognised for training by the Central Midwives Board.

The Native Administration Dispensaries, to the number of 180, continue to make a great contribution to the medical care of the Region. Over half a million new cases representing a total attendance of nearly one and a half millions were dealt with during the year.



### Veterinary

Rinderpest was encountered in Ogoja and Onitsha Provinces but the spread was controlled by quarantine measures. Two hundred animals were immunised by the new attenuated virus. Fifty animals were immunised from Anthrax which occurred in Ogoja and Owerri Provinces. In Bamenda Province nearly 300,000 preventative inoculations against Blackquarter were administered and a total of 16,000 doses of vaccine for Haemorrhagic Septicaemia were given. The new drug antrycide was used in small scale experiments against trypanosomiasis. Various other diseases in cattle, horses, pigs and poultry were dealt with.

Jakiri Livestock Improvement Centre, working in close co-operation with the Department of Agriculture farm at Bambui increased its rate of progress. There was increased distribution of breeding stock. Demonstration of improved husbandry is now having noticeable effect on the ranges over much of the Bamenda Province. There was increased scale of all dairy products from the farm and several outstanding milk yields were recorded.

The following inferior male animals were castrated:—

Cattle ... ..	8,505
Sheep ... ..	277
Goats ... ..	158

This represents a threefold increase over the previous year.

A total of over 114,000 head of cattle were sold in the Eastern Region during the year. This figure is almost exactly the same as for 1948-49.

Over 6,500 new clinical cases were recorded at the Veterinary clinics involving some 16,000 treatments. This service too showed considerable expansion. There was also considerable increase in the number and quality of hides prepared for export. The numbers are estimated at approximately 40,000.

An experiment to test the suitability of the Cameroons Mountain massif for stock raising has been carried out. Although incomplete, it seems likely that the area is suitable for numerous small herds but not suitable for ranching. The Veterinary Officer, Ogoja, has done a preliminary survey of the Obudu Plateau with a view to the utilisation of this area for cattle farming.

### Public Works

The year produced a very welcome though belated increase in engineering staff and the total senior service of all ranks now stands at seventy-two. There are still deplorable gaps however, as the one Water Engineer has not been replaced and there is still only one Accountant for the whole Region. There are now five Africans in the senior service where there were none in the preceding year.

There has been a general improvement in the supply of stores though the continued heavy demands have produced a strain on the organisation and irksome delays have occasionally been inevitable.



In recent months there has been a shortage of cement due to a serious hold up in production in the United Kingdom, and many important works have been delayed in consequence. The position is now beginning to improve and it is confidently hoped that deliveries will be nearly normal again at the end of 1950.

The new House of Assembly building was sufficiently far advanced to enable Legislative Council to take possession for the Budget Session in March. The extensive finishing work has since proceeded apace and the completion stages have now been reached. During the year thirty senior service quarters have been completed or put in hand in different stations and three blocks of three storey flats have been started at Enugu and Aba. Some thirty Junior Service Quarters have been built or are in course of construction at Enugu, and special quarters are in hand for Customs staff at Tiko and Bota. Catering Rest Houses are being extended at Port Harcourt, Calabar, Onitsha, Mamfe and Bamenda, and when completed accommodation will be approximately doubled in each case.

Other new buildings include the Automatic Telephone Exchange at Port Harcourt, the Post Office and Telephone Block at Calabar, a Telephone Block at Aba, a Printing Office at Enugu and Customs Offices at Bota all completed; and Electricity Show Rooms at Enugu, Port Harcourt and Victoria, a Post Office and Telephone Block at Onitsha and sundry branch Post Offices in course of erection. Under the Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme the Onitsha Hospital is nearing completion and work is well forward on others at Bamenda and Ogoni and on the Maternity Hospital at Aba. Under Education the Women Elementary Training Centre at Enugu, the Boys Secondary School at Umuahia and the Teachers Training Centre at Uyo are all developing satisfactorily and the Enugu Institution will be ready for the first stream of students in April, 1951. A start is now being made on the Boys Secondary School at Afikpo.

During the dry season of 1949-50 a further forty miles of road were tarred on Onitsha-Oron and Port Harcourt-Aba roads and rather more than this is planned for the coming dry season. The whole Onitsha-Oron road should be completed by April, 1952. The new four miles deviation from Port Harcourt to the aerodrome is now open to traffic but still requires to be tarred. The Bansara-Mamfe road construction is now practically complete except for the major river crossings. Of these it has been decided to postpone the erection of the Cross River Bridge owing to its excessive cost, but a start has been made on the Munaiya Bridge 260 feet long and 55 feet high and according to the present programme this should be open to traffic before the high floods of next rain season. Designs have been prepared for the remaining two bridges over the Afi and Aiya Rivers, each structure being again over 200 feet in length, and special steel spans have been ordered from the United Kingdom. Construction on the Calabar-Mamfe road has made rather slow progress but the country is very difficult



and the route is necessarily tortuous and in steep sidelong ground. Construction head is now eighty-three miles from Calabar and there is still a gap of eleven miles to link up with the ten miles which have been completed from the northern end. Although there will still be a big programme for replacing all the temporary wooden bridges, it is hoped that the road will be open to traffic through to Mamfe by December, 1951. It has recently been reported that a new power ferry for the Kwa River at Atimbo is nearing completion and this unexpected news has necessitated increased activity to prepare special ramps and loading stages.

Special funds have been made available to replace old wooden bridges and carry out essential improvements on roads in the Cameroons, many of which are in an advanced state of disrepair. The bridge over the Sombreiro River at Ahoada, 280 feet long, has just been completed and the approach banks will be finished as the river level falls. The deck of the Asata Bridge at Enugu has at long last been constructed.

The lack of water engineering staff has again severely restricted the programme for Urban Water Supplies and activity has been confined principally to the small Abakaliki scheme which is now complete except for electrical pumping plant. Onitsha has been dogged by misfortune as the old steam plant had practically worked itself to a standstill and the new pumping plant was found not only to be second hand but in such bad state of repair that for several weeks there was danger that Onitsha might be without water altogether. New pumps have since been received and the position is steadily improving but a great deal of work is still to be done on the distribution side and on water treatment plant before an adequate supply both in quality and quantity can be assured. Work is also in hand at Calabar to improve the pumping arrangements and harness further supplies, but it is not at present possible to say how soon this can be made effective. At Port Harcourt, the present supply is proving inadequate and further tube wells are being sunk. A satisfactory rate of progress is being maintained in all provinces on Rural Water Supplies.

The Runway at Tiko Aerodrome is being extended and tarred, and the recently completed No. 3 Runway at Calabar is also being tarred. Tarred turning circles and concourses are being provided at Port Harcourt and Enugu. The Mamfe Airfield is being improved and facilities are being provided for regular air services, while Meteorological observations are being undertaken at Bali near Bamenda for a further airfield.

#### **Marine**

Six new diesel-engined launches were brought into service in the Region during the year. Three of these, however, together with one steam launch, are being used by the Police in connection with the Okrika-Kalabari investigations and are likely to be out of other service for several months. Although the launch situation is now improved the provision of shore accommodation for extra crews



has presented an urgent problem. The Department has given the Administration its fullest co-operation during a year when launch crews have been exceptionally hard worked.

Over 150,000 tons of coal were shipped from Port Harcourt by Marine vessels during the year.

Bonny River is now lit by buoys from the Bar to Port Harcourt and land is being acquired for the erection of a lighthouse at the entrance to the Bonny River.

The usual passenger and freight services have been operated and the usual waterway clearing programme was continued, mainly in the dry season. During the greater part of the year the Department ran a fortnightly service, with *Pathfinder* and *Dayspring*, between Lagos, Port Harcourt, Calabar and Victoria.

#### Ports

The total revenue accruing from the port of Port Harcourt rose from £2,699,883 in 1948-49 to £3,490,616 in 1949-50. Import tonnage rose from 119,134 to 131,245 and this expansion continues. The port, of course, serves the whole country and, in point of fact the largest single export by volume last year was groundnuts of which 30,850 tons left the port. The Port Advisory Sub-committee is recommending that the decision to abandon the proposed new coal wharf be reconsidered and that at least one new berth together with attendant wharf and Customs facilities is built.

Except for an interruption during the Cameroons Development Corporation strike last November there has been a frequent banana-boat service to and from Tiko. Port facilities have been maintained at Victoria, Calabar and Abonnema and while Opobo is still officially closed there is a slight possibility that it may at some future date be reopened as the result of natural changes at the bar.

#### Posts and Telegraphs

This Department continues to extend its services and during the year, in addition to a number of Post Offices built or under construction, preparation for the installation of automatic switch-boards at Calabar and Port Harcourt are proceeding, radio-telephony links have been installed between Marine-Port Harcourt and Marine-Lagos, between the Resident, Port Harcourt and the District Officers of Ogoni and Brass and at Port Harcourt Aerodrome, a land line telephone between Port Harcourt and Degema is nearly completed, the Uyo-Itu-Aro Chuku Trunk Line has been completed, a new seven-operator exchange has replaced the antiquated two-operator exchange at Enugu, a telephone service between Enugu and Lagos has been brought into trial and it is hoped that it will be ready for the use of the public in the near future, a wireless transmitting and receiving set has been installed at Nsukka, and a departmental mail-van service has been brought into operation in the Cameroons. The number of Postal Agencies



continues to expand, as indeed it must as a larger proportion of the population becomes literate each year. Both at Brass and Bamenda the wireless installations are antiquated and unreliable but it is hoped that they will soon be replaced by more reliable equipment. It is hoped that a Radio-Diffusion Centre will shortly be built at Onitsha.

### **Labour**

The Department of Labour in the Eastern Provinces has been organised on a regional basis as from the 1st of January 1950. The Eastern Regional Office was opened at Enugu on that date with a Senior Labour Officer in charge. Labour Officers are stationed at Buea, Calabar and Enugu.

A Juvenile Employment Exchange is established at Enugu and Resettlement Offices for Ex-Servicemen at Aba, Abakaliki, Bamenda, Enugu, Onitsha, Opobo, Owerri, Port Harcourt, Umuahia, Uyo, and Victoria.

A considerable part of the work of a Labour Officer consists of dealing with both verbal and written complaints made by individual workers and trade unions. Contacts are maintained with officials of trade unions and Ex-servicemen's Organisations. Advice is given them and efforts are made to see that the unions develop on healthy lines. The visit of the Industrial Relations Experts from the United Kingdom aroused some interest and officials of some of the unions met and held long discussions with the Experts. Some Trade Unions in the Cameroons have shown of late tendency to break away from Nigerian influence and to concentrate entirely on Cameroons requirements. They propose to form a new organisation which will embrace workers of all grades and crafts in the Cameroons who are native to the Territory.

Inspections in Enugu and Calabar and of large establishments elsewhere have been made during the year and particular attention has been given to employers engaged on Government contracts to ensure the strict observance of the fair wages clause. A list of Contractors in other parts of the Enugu Labour Officer's area is now being compiled and it is hoped to extend the sphere of inspections as soon as staff is available.

The registration of secondary school leavers (and others with similar qualifications) has continued. The Exchange Manager has also visited the Schools to interview and advise pupils about to leave. Following the posting of a Senior Service Officer as Exchange Manager at Enugu the Selection Committee was abolished and the new arrangements have worked satisfactorily. A Selection Committee continues to operate in the Cameroons. During the year 512 school leavers registered and 139 were placed in employment. The Cameroons Development Corporation has undertaken to provide £4,000 annually for scholarships to be awarded to natives of the Cameroons who desire to take courses



which will lead to their obtaining qualifications likely to be of practical value in the development of the Cameroons. The Selection Committee will deal with the applications which have been received.

The Resettlement of Ex-servicemen has now ceased to be the work of a separate branch and has been merged with the work of the Department of Labour. The Resettlement Offices which have been retained will, it is hoped, be converted in due course to Employment Exchanges under the control of a Regional Exchange Manager and Assistant Exchange Manager: a system which will make for greater efficiency.

Recruitment for the Spanish Territories has continued and recruiting for the French Gabon has also begun. The existing organisation, the Anglo-Spanish Employment Agency, now recruits for both Spanish and French Territories.

The year has unfortunately been marred by industrial disputes leading to serious strikes by the Cameroons Development Corporation workers in November, by Government labourers in Bamenda Province in January, and by the United Africa Company workers in August. In addition there was a "go-slow" in the Enugu Colliery from 7th November, 1949 to 2nd December, 1949. There were also two small strikes in the motor transport industry but several other disputes have been settled without a stoppage of work. On the brighter side, there has been an encouraging increase in the number of joint consultative Committees which have been set up and are working satisfactorily; one notable outcome has been the establishment of workers' shops on the Cameroons plantations which have had a considerable influence in keeping down the prices of essential commodities.

#### **Public Relations**

The Regional Public Relations Office has completed the second year of its existence and in all fields there has been a considerable expansion of its activities. The work of the Department has been divided into four main sections; press, radio, cinema and publicity.

The Department has acted as the principal reporting agency in the Region and during the year nearly 850 different news and feature items covering a wide range of subjects were compiled and distributed direct to all the Eastern newspapers and to the other newspapers through the Public Relations Officer, Lagos. Copies were also sent to administrative officers and to a large number of firms and individuals, while the more important ones reached the United Kingdom and the United States of America. When Legislative Council met in Enugu, summaries of each day's debates were prepared and issued the same day, and cabled reports sent to the Colonial Office. Close liaison was maintained with the Regional press and every facility extended to the staffs of the newspapers.



File. Recruiting continued to be satisfactory and the standard of education of recruits was often well above the minimum required by regulations. A vehicle-inspection officer has been operating in the Region throughout the year but it has not yet been possible to start the Motor Traffic Unit owing to the shortage of Superior Police Officers. On the whole the discipline of the force has been excellent, often in the most trying circumstances as there have been a number of disturbances during the year to deal with which Police have had to be diverted from their normal duties. These disturbances are dealt with elsewhere in this Address.

#### Prisons

During the period under review steady but sound progress in prison administration was maintained. Staff improvements were effected and as the result of a considerable increase in the establishment of First and Second Class Warders Third Class Warders may now reasonably expect to receive promotion to the next higher rank within from three or four years of enlistment.

A considerable number of long term prisoners continued to participate in the Earnings Scheme, which has proved an incentive to good conduct and industry and less than one per cent of the participants have, by indiscipline, forfeited the privilege. Prison industries continue to flourish and it is generally agreed that the quality of the work carried out is excellent. In the near future the carpenters' shop in the Enugu Convict Prison will be extended and modern power-driven woodworking machinery installed. When this installation is completed it will be possible to assist the Public Works, Eastern Provinces, by undertaking the manufacture of much needed furniture.

The population of lunatics confined in prisons in the Eastern Provinces, particularly in the Enugu and Port Harcourt Prisons, continues to grow, the main reason for this increase being the closing of the Lokoja Prison Asylum. It is hoped that by the extension to the Calabar Civil Asylum the Prison Department will be relieved of the responsibility of the care of civil lunatics.

Discipline was well maintained during the year and no incidents of a serious nature were reported. The health of inmates was also good. Prison libraries were established in all convict prisons in the Eastern Provinces and the demand for books by prisoners of good conduct is proof of the appreciation of this amenity. When more books are available prison libraries will be established in other prisons in the provinces. The founding of educational classes is another feature of improved administration. Such classes are held in all convict prisons and in some of the Divisional and Provincial Prisons. In the Enugu Convict Prison voluntary evening classes are held twice weekly when elementary building and carpentry is taught. These classes are most popular and the prisoners show great keenness to learn.



During the year under review the Enugu Radio Diffusion Station was opened. With the assistance of a Radio Advisory Committee, a three-hour local daily programme was introduced by the Department, which seeks to cater for the varied needs of all members of the community. During the Legislative Council when a small radio transmitter was installed, summaries of the proceedings were broadcast to the whole country each evening. Similar commentaries were continued on a local scale during the sessions of the House of Assembly. In Calabar and Port Harcourt, other local programmes were broadcast and the aim has been and is to encourage, and when possible to train, local talent.

A second cinema van was put into service during the year, but unfortunately it was not a new one. Despite the difficulty of keeping these two units constantly operating in good working order, over 150 different performances were given during the year and in very many other cases films were made available on loan to schools and other institutions. The demand for film shows is insatiable and every effort has been made to keep the vehicles on the road.

A large sixty-page illustrated summary of the Budget Session of the Legislative Council, a summary of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Eastern House of Assembly and a small pamphlet on Local Government were compiled and the two latter issued during the year while plans were made for two others on Agriculture and Forestry. In addition, a vast volume of books, periodicals and other literature of an educational and cultural value was issued to reading rooms, schools, clubs and individuals.

A small photographic section was started in the second half of the year and all important functions in that period were covered by the Department's photographer. Over 1,600 prints were made, many of which have since been published in Nigeria, the United Kingdom and elsewhere. The greater proportion were in connection with Community Development and of this work in one Division alone 331 prints were produced. The Department also created a portable display stall. This was first exhibited at Owerri last May and was tremendously popular.

A number of overseas visitors toured the Eastern Provinces during the period under review under local arrangements made by the Department. Two of these, Mr Colin Wills and Mr Walter Kolarz both of the British Broadcasting Corporation subsequently gave radio talks from London. Not a little of the work of the Public Relations Department is personal and the Department has adopted the policy of keeping an 'open office' and indeed 'open house' to all comers and efforts are made to give personal attention to the many enquiries.

#### **Police**

The Southern Training School was transferred to Ikeja in December and on its site a Refresher School is being constructed with an eventual establishment of two Officers and 150 Rank and



The Warders' Training School continues to function with efficiency and benefit to both Government and Native Authority Prison Staff.

Although comparatively young in origin, After-Care has been vigorously pursued and results to date are most encouraging. For the third year in succession, no juveniles were admitted to prison. The Enugu Approved School was efficiently maintained during the period under review and the School population on the 31st of August, 1950, was 194.

#### Legal

There were two Crown Counsel on duty during the year and the volume of work dealt with by them continued to increase. In addition to their usual duties Counsel represented the Government upon two Commissions of Inquiry and produced the final draft of the Eastern Provinces Local Government Bill.

#### Treasury

Considerable progress has been made at Regional Headquarters during the period under review towards complete regionalisation of the accounts in accordance with the recommendations of the Phillipson Report.

The volume of routine work in the individual Sub and Local Treasuries and in Regional Headquarters resulting therefrom continues to increase with the expansion of Departmental activities within the Region. This is illustrated by the following statement of payment and receipt vouchers which passed through Sub and Local Treasuries in the Region:

				£
Financial year	1947-48	...	...	159,582
"	"	1948-49	...	185,732
"	"	1949-50	...	195,569

(Note.—1948-49 is inflated by Manilla Withdrawal Transactions but 1949-50 truly represents Departmental increases.)

As a result of the installation in November of electrically operated accounting machines the final accounts of the Region are now produced at Regional Headquarters by mechanical means.

In spite of the lack of experienced staff the policy of relieving the Provincial Administration of responsibility for staffing Local Treasuries has been vigorously pursued, and during the year five stations were taken over, namely, Ikot Ekpene, Uyo, Itu, Mamfe and Afikpo; bringing the total number of Treasuries staffed entirely by Treasury personnel to twenty compared to seven on 1st April, 1948, when regionalisation commenced.

It has been necessary to apply for an increase in the clerical establishment to cope with the over-increasing volume of work. Apart from the numerical strength of the staff, the position



regarding experienced staff has further deteriorated as a result of transfers, retirement, etc., and now exactly seventy per cent of the total Junior Service has been appointed since 1st April, 1947. In the absence of any possibility of importing additional experienced staff the fact must be faced that only intensive training and time can raise the general standard of efficiency.

A matter which continues to cause grave anxiety is the number of cases involving Loss of Government Funds. During the period under review fourteen cases were reported involving a sum of £5,178 15s 7d. Every effort is being made by issuing new and tightening up existing instructions and regulations on security procedure to prevent further frauds.

#### **Audit**

Three Auditors and their staff have been continuously employed throughout the Region during the year auditing all official accounts.

#### **Printing**

The Press at Enugu began work in time for the Budget Session of Legislative Council at Enugu and has already proved a most useful asset to the Region.

#### **Customs and Excise**

Normal services have been maintained at all ports. The Eastern Preventive Service, under Collectors stationed at Kumba and Santa, continues to patrol the French frontier. This service is now mainly concerned with preventing smuggling of articles on which high duties are levied by the Government; kerosene, spirits, tobacco and cigarettes are the most popular imports and clothing, enamel-ware, soap and gunpowder are the usual exports. A tragic incident occurred when two Preventive Officers met a band of about an hundred smugglers near Bamenda in August and were attacked. One officer was murdered and the other badly beaten. Two smugglers were killed. The local village head sent out his own men to round up the smugglers and thirteen were caught. Later three men reported on their own accord to the Police and surrendered the rifles and bayonets taken from the Preventive Officers. Sixteen persons now await trial in the Supreme Court.

#### **Enugu Colliery**

The total labour force in the Colliery was 6,247 and the output 536,353 tons, 63,927 tons less than during the previous twelve months.

Welfare work in the Colliery makes steady progress. The Woman Welfare Officer continues to train welfare workers in addition to her other duties. A Medical Officer is attached to the Colliery and full facilities for medical treatment are available. The first block of the new Colliery Hospital has been built. A full time lecturer in coal-mining has been appointed to the new training school, which opened in February, 1950. Students spend one day



in the lecture room and the rest of the week is devoted to practical training underground. Radio Diffusion sets are provided in all Social Welfare halls and a special "Colliery Half Hour" is broadcast weekly. In the Colliery Housing estates 6,608 men, women and children are now accommodated. Nine blocks, of sixty-four rooms, have been completed in a new housing estate to replace the temporary buildings at Asata.

#### **Aviation**

Regular services have been maintained throughout the year to Enugu, whence there is now a daily service to Lagos except on Sundays, Port Harcourt, Calabar and Tiko. Owing to the swampy nature of the latter airfield services have occasionally had to be cancelled but funds were allocated during the year for tarring the runway and this work is now in hand. Plans are afoot to bring the Mamfe airfield into service and extensions to the runways and the preliminaries for the erection of terminal buildings are now in progress.