FEDERATION OF NIGERIA

# ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
# FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES
FOR THE YEAR 1957-58

NINEPENCE NET

1958

LAGOS: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PRINTER

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# Annual Report of the Federal Department of Commerce and Industries for the Year 1957-58

## I.—INTRODUCTION

This report covers the twelve months from the 1st April, 1957, to the 31st March, 1958. It is the thirteenth in the series of annual reports since the Department of Commerce and Industries was formed in 1946 and the fourth since it was reorganised on the inception of Nigeria's first Federal Constitution on the 1st October, 1954.

2. The appointment of Alhaji the Honourable Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, C.B.E., M.H.R., as Prime Minister of the Federation and the visits of Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, of Mr J. K. Vaughan-Morgan, Minister of State at the Board of Trade, of Mrs Golda Meir, Foreign Secretary of Israel, and of Sayed Abdalla Khalil, Prime Minister of the Sudan, not only stimulated world-wide interest in Nigeria, but directly or indirectly drew the attention of the world to Nigeria's economic potentiality. This interest was reflected in the volume of enquiries received by post and the number of businessmen who came to Nigeria to investigate in person the opportunities for developing trade or establishing industries, either independently or in partnership with Nigerian interests. 351 visitors called at the Headquarters of the Department in connection with major commercial and industrial projects.

3. Speaking to the House of Representatives on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation (1957-58) Bill, the Prime Minister of the Federation said :—

> "......it is proper that I should, as the first Prime Minister of the Federation, declare categorically that the Government which I am proud to head is determined to maintain wise financial policies that will perpetuate the high reputation that this country enjoys in such matters ; and that it will not lend itself to any measures that would have the effect of lessening the confidence of overseas investors and of our own people in our financial and economic stability."

4. A mission of economic, railway and agricultural experts from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development arrived in October, 1957, to explore the possibility of granting a loan to the Nigerian Railway Corporation to finance part of the cost of extending the railway to Bornu. The International Bank representatives also reviewed Nigeria's economic and financial situation.

5. Another major project which may have far reaching results on commercial development was the study by the Netherlands Engineering Consultants (NEDECO) into the possibility of containing the waters of the Niger and Benue rivers so that these two great natural arteries could be used as the basis of a river communications system.

6. Starting with the January 1958 number, coloured illustrations were introduced into the inside pages of the Nigeria Trade Journal and further added to the prestige of this much-praised publication. The third edition of the Handbook of Commerce and Industry in Nigeria, a book now running to 280 pages and including a special map supplement, proved extremely popular and at the end of the year a reprint had to be ordered.

7. The total overseas trade in 1957, at £278 million, fell back slightly from the 1956 record figure of £287 million, imports being down roughly by £1 million, while exports, because of smaller harvests and lower world prices, dropped by £8 million. The adverse visible trade balance increased to £25 million.

8. The most important development in industry was the opening of the £2 million cement factory at Nkalagu.

9. Construction of the Industrial Estate at Yaba was delayed owing to abnormally heavy rains, but by the end of the year some of the buildings had been completed and a start had been made with installing the machinery.

10. The Department staged, at the beginning of March, a "Made-in-Nigeria" Exhibition in Lagos which attracted over 100,000 visitors. Besides being of benefit to Nigeria, the outstanding success of this exhibition brought great credit to the Department.

11. The valuable incentive to local industry afforded by the requirement that Federal Government departments should purchase locally manufactured goods wherever these are able to compete in price and quality with similar imported goods was extended by the approval of an additional range of such locally made products.

12. The Aid to Pioneer Industries Ordinance was revised and re-enacted as the Industrial Development (Income Tax Relief) Ordinance.

13. Other incentives to industry introduced during the year were the Industrial Development (Import Duties Relief) Ordinance and the Dumped and Subsidised Goods Ordinance.

14. A survey was made of industry in Lagos and work began on the compilation of a register of industries throughout Nigeria.

15. In connection with the control of immigration, the Department advised on 352 applications by expatriate firms for permission to establish or expand business enterprise in the Federation.

16. The Federal Institute of Industrial Research, formerly named the Institute of Applied Technical Research, made considerable progress in its rehabilitated buildings at Oshodi and a Head of Research was appointed.

17. The Federal Loans Board held seven meetings and approved 18 applications for loans amounting in all to £73,600.

18. The Director of Commerce and Industries was relieved of his appointment as Chairman of the Federal Works Registration Board when the Board was reconstituted in September, 1957.

19. The Director continued as an *ex officio* member of the Nigerian Ports Authority and an elected member of its Staff and Establishments Committee. He also served as an *ex officio* member of the Customs Tariff Advisory Committee, and the Federal Loans Board, and was represented on the Aids to Industry Committee, the Aids to African Businessmen Committee, the Import Licensing Committee and the Committee on Technical Education.

## II.—FUNCTIONS AND ORGANISATION

### FUNCTIONS

20. Towards the end of the period under review it was approved in principle as part of the general plan for the integration of Ministries and Departments that the Department should be integrated with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and much work was done in preparing a scheme to give effect to this intention. In the event, integration was deferred and the functions of the Department remained unchanged throughout the year. These functions were described in detail in the last Annual Report.

### ORGANISATION

21. The organisation of the Department during the year under review is shown in Appendices I-IV. The principal changes compared with the previous year were :—

(*a*) the post of Accountant was reinstated, but re-designated as Executive Officer (Accounts) ;

(*b*) a new post of Personal Secretary to the Director was created ;

(*c*) the following posts were re-designated :—

| *Old Title* | *New Title* |
|---|---|
| Economic Publications Officer | Principal Publications Officer |
| Assistant Economic Publications Officer | Publications Officer |
| Administrative Assistant, Grade I | Higher Executive Officer |
| Assistant Executive Officer | Executive Officer, Grade I |

(*d*) Training posts were created as follows :—

| | *With effect from* 1-4-57 | *With effect from* 1-10-57 |
|---|---|---|
| Assistant Publications Officers-in-Training or on Probation .. .. | 1 | 2 |
| Assistant Commercial Officers-in-Training or on Probation .. .. | 2 | 6 |
| Assistant Industrial Officers-in-Training or on Probation .. .. .. | 4 | 4 |
| Assistant Boatbuilding Superintendents-in-Training .. .. .. | Nil | 2 |

(*e*) four additional posts of Commercial Officer were created, two to provide for the two officers seconded to the Office of the Commissioner for Nigeria in the United Kingdom who had previously been held in the Commissioner's establishment, and two to staff new branch offices of the Department at Aba and Jos ;

(*f*) three new posts of Industrial Officer were approved, one to replace one of the two posts of Textile Mill Officer ;

(*g*) two new posts of Assistant Industrial Officer were created to provide for leave reliefs in the Industries Branch ;

(*h*) one of the two posts of Designer-Engineer in the Federal Institute of Industrial Research was deleted ;

(*i*) the posts of Boatbuilding Superintendent which were included in the Institute establishment in the 1956/57 Estimates were restored to the Industries Branch ;

(*j*) in the Supplementary Estimates the titles of two of the Senior Scientific Officer posts were changed to Senior Engineer and Senior Experimental Officer respectively in order to provide titles more in keeping with the qualifications of the officers whom it was hoped to recruit into these vacancies.

## STAFF

22. The tables below reflect the state of the Department's establishment at the beginning and end of the twelve-month period covered by this report :—

### Senior Posts

| *Date* | *Approved Establishment* | *Expatriate Staff* | *Non-Expatriate Staff* | *Total* | *Vacancies* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st April, 1957 .. .. | 66 | 29 | 15 | 44 | 22 |
| 31st March, 1958 .. | 66 | 29 | 16 | 45 | 21 |

### Intermediate Posts (Including Secretary-Typists)

| *Date* | *Approved Establishment* | *Expatriate Staff* | *Non-Expatriate Staff* | *Total* | *Vacancies* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st April, 1957 .. .. | 26 | 3 | 9 | 12 | 14 |
| 31st March, 1958 .. | 33 | 4 | 22 | 26 | 7 |

JUNIOR POSTS

| Date | Approved Establishment | Expatriate Staff | Non-Expatriate Staff | Total | Vacancies |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st April, 1957 .. | 140 | — | 100 | 100 | 40 |
| 31st March, 1958 .. | 140 | — | 126 | 126 | 14 |

NON-ESTABLISHED POSTS (EXCLUDING OPOBO BOATYARD)

| Date | Approved Establishment | Expatriate Staff | Non-Expatriate Staff | Total | Vacancies |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st April, 1957 .. .. | 50 | — | 40 | 40 | 10 |
| 31st March, 1958 .. .. | 50 | — | 40 | 40 | 10 |

TOTAL STAFF

| Date | Approved Establishment | Expatriate Staff | Non-Expatriate Staff | Total | Vacancies |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st April, 1957 .. .. | 282 | 32 | 164 | 196 | 86 |
| 31st March, 1958 .. .. | 289 | 33 | 204 | 237 | 52 |

23. During the year, three posts were filled from outside the Department by the recruitment of the Head of Research, one Senior Industrial Officer (both expatriates) and one Research Officer (Nigerian), while one Commercial Officer (Nigerian), one Senior Research Officer (expatriate) and one Assistant Library Officer (expatriate) were engaged on a month-to-month basis.

24. Amongst the posts filled by promotion within the Department were the following :—

| Post | Effective Date |
|---|---|
| Deputy Director .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 1–10–55 |
| Assistant Director (Commerce) .. .. .. .. .. .. | 5–4–57 |
| Principal Commercial Officer (two) .. .. .. .. .. .. | 5–4–57 |
| | 4–10–57 |
| Higher Executive Officer .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 25–10–55 |
| Senior Engineer .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 9–9–57 |

25. The 21 senior posts vacant as at 31st March, 1958, were :—

| Branch | Post |
|---|---|
| Administration | Executive Officer, Grade I<br>Personal Secretary<br>Executive Officer (Accounts) |
| Commerce | Senior Commercial Officers (three)<br>Commercial Officers (four) |
| Industries | Senior Industrial Officer<br>Engineer<br>Industrial Officers (three) |
| Federal Institute of Industrial Research | Deputy Director of Research<br>Cost Accountant<br>Research Officers (two)<br>Designer-Engineer<br>Workshop Foreman |

26. During the year, the following officers left the Department for the reasons shown in each case :—

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 Principal Commercial Officer | Resigned |
| 1 Senior Commercial Officer | Retired |
| 1 Senior Industrial Officer | Resigned |
| 1 Commercial Officer | Transferred to the External Affairs Branch of the Prime Minister's Office |
| 1 Commercial Officer | Dismissed |

## III.—ACCOUNTS

27. The post of Executive Officer (Accounts) was not substantively filled and the responsibility for the accounts devolved on an Assistant Executive Officer (Accounts) who acted throughout the year in the higher post. It proved possible only towards the end of the year to recruit a Cost Accountant for the Federal Institute of Industrial Research although provision for this post had existed since 1st April, 1956. The one substantive Accountant in the Department for the year was the Industrial Accountant in the Industries Branch.

28. In anticipation of the Department becoming self-accounting from October, 1958, provision was asked for in the 1958-59 draft Estimates for a Senior Accountant.

29. At the date of this Report, the Departmental accounts had been reconciled with the Treasury up to February, 1958. Statements of revenue and expenditure for the year are given in Appendices V and VI.

### SCHEME DIRECTLY OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT

30. *The Mechanical Textile Training Centre, Lagos.*—A Government grant of £750 was approved for the purchase of yarn, dyestuffs, chemicals, etc., for use in the manufacture of cloth. The Centre had been wound up in March, 1957, and a total of 187 yards of cloth held in stock at that date, valued at £22-2*s*-3*d*, were sold during the year. Some of the assets of the scheme have been sold to a Nigerian firm which spins and manufactures cloth, and efforts to dispose of the remaining stocks and assets continue. The final accounts have been written up and were awaiting audit at the end of the period.

### MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS OPERATED IN LAGOS

31. (*i*) *Lagos Bank Account.*—This account was maintained for the Mechanical Textile Training Centre and Coir Fibre Investigation Scheme. A statement of Account as at 31st March, 1958, will be submitted to the Director of Federal Audit as soon as reconciliation is made with the Bank of West Africa Limited.

(*ii*) *Direct Supply Indent Account with the Crown Agents.*—This account is now closed. There is an amount of £464-15*s*-8*d* standing to the credit of the Department, which has been deposited with the Bank and is held in reserve for distribution, after provision has been made for bad or doubtful debts, among the various schemes for which the account was operated,

(*iii*) *Duala Yarn Account.*—The Duala Cotton Yarn Scheme is being wound up. There were very few transactions during the year and the balance of the stock was disposed of in December, 1957 to the Nigerian Railway Corporation as waste, the yarn having greatly deteriorated over long years of storage. The revenue account was reconciled up to 31st March, 1957, with the books of the Accountant-General of the Federation. Trading and Profit and Loss Accounts for the year were prepared and await audit.

(*iv*) *Coir Fibre Investigation Account.*—This account was closed in November, 1957, when the credit balance amounting to £572-19*s*-9*d* was transferred to the Federal Institute of Industrial Research trading suspense account. The Institute took over the responsibility for coir fibre investigations from the Industries Branch on 1st April, 1956.

(*v*) *Opobo Boatyard Account.*—The Boatyard operates a trading suspense account. A system of costing individual boats built at the Boatyard was introduced in February 1958. The account was reconciled up to 30th April, 1957, with the books of the Accountant-General of the Federation.

## ADVICE TO INDUSTRIES

32. Accounting assistance was given to a Nigerian limited liability company in the preparation and maintenance of its accounts. As a result of the guidance afforded, the company's production costs were substantially reduced.

# IV.—COMMERCE

## GENERAL

33. Nigerians continued to play an increasingly important part in the overseas trade of their country, while the established expatriate firms tended to concentrate more and more on wholesale business and the provision of technical services.

34. One of the most significant decisions that emerged from the 1957 Constitutional Conference in London was that there should be no change in the division of responsibility as between the Federal and Regional Governments in trade matters. External trade and trade between the Regions, the Southern Cameroons and Lagos remained within the exclusive competence of the Federal Government, while the Regional Governments continued to be responsible for trade within their respective Regions.

35. An Advisory Committee on Aids to African Businessmen was set up by the Federal Minister of Commerce and Industry and held its first meeting on 16th January, 1958. The Committee's terms of reference were :—

(*i*) to review measures already taken to assist African businessmen ;

(*ii*) to make recommendations as to the measures which should, in future, be taken by the Federal Government to assist them ;

(*iii*) in particular, to examine the Ghana Guarantee Corporation Ordinance and other proposals for providing credit facilities for African importers and exporters and to propose a scheme.

## STAFF

36. The Assistant Director (Commerce), who had never served in his substantive post, having acted continuously as Deputy Director or Director since his appointment in 1953, was finally appointed Deputy Director ; this cleared the way for a number of promotions within the Department which had previously been blocked.

37. Although for a short period the branch was on paper nearly up to strength, for most of the year there were six or more vacancies. The work of the branch was, however, kept going by appointing Assistant Commercial Officers to act as Commercial Officers. This expedient placed a strain on the more senior officers as some of the Assistant Commercial Officers had to act before they were really ready to assume the individual responsibility which should go with the post of Commercial Officer.

## TRADE OFFICES IN THE REGIONS

38. New branch offices were established at Aba and Jos. The organisation of the Department in the regions is as follows :—

| *Region* | | *Provinces covered* |
|---|---|---|
| NORTH | | |
| Main Office : | Kano | Kano, Katsina, Sokoto, Zaria, Niger, Ilorin, Kabba |
| Branch : | Jos | Adamawa, Bauchi, Benue, Bornu, Plateau |
| WEST | | |
| Main Office : | Ibadan | Ibadan, Oyo (part), Ijebu, Abeokuta, Colony |
| Branches : | Akure | Ondo, Oyo (part) |
| | Sapele | Delta, Benin |
| EAST | | |
| Main Office : | Port Harcourt | Rivers |
| Branches : | Onitsha | Onitsha, Ogoja |
| | Aba | Owerri, Calabar |

39. Trade officers serving in the Regions, like their counterparts at the headquarters of the Department in Lagos, gave valuable advice to importers and exporters on the regulations and controls affecting trade, explained customs procedure and generally interested themselves in the commercial life of the provinces for which they were responsible. They processed applications for the registration of Business Names from firms in their respective Regions, issued import licences for controlled commodities to the small firms located in their areas and also issued export licences when required.

## SUPPLIES

40. All items of import were in good supply during the year and there was no apparent shortage in any established line. The textile market, in particular, was well stocked and temporary gluts of flour and stockfish occurred due to over-ordering. Generally speaking, traders did not have a particularly profitable year.

## OVERSEAS TRADE*

(*The figures in the succeeding paragraphs refer to the calendar year* 1957)

41. The "adverse" balance of trade which was recorded in 1955 and increased in 1956, still further rose in 1957 as the tempo of development gained momentum. The following figures compare the net adverse trade balance in each of these three years with the value of building materials and machinery imported and show the relation of imports of these capital goods to the total value of imports.

| *Year* | *Adverse balance of trade £ million* | *Expenditure on capital goods £ million* | *Value of imported capital goods expressed as a percentage of total imports* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1955 | 3.6 | 38.2 | 28.1 |
| 1956 | 18.1 | 44.2 | 28.9 |
| 1957 | 25.0 | 45.1 | 29.7 |

42. The total value of imports, at £151,619,000, was £1.1 million lower than the previous year, the drop being principally attributable to a reduction of nearly £3.5 million in the value of rayon piece goods. Imports of most other items were at the same level or rather higher than in previous years. The value of exports, at £126,589,000, fell by almost £8 million from the total of the previous year, mainly because of lower production of palm kernels, palm oil,

* Full details of trade statistics are obtainable in the monthly *Nigeria Trade Summary* published by the Federal Department of Statistics, and in the annual *Trade Report* obtainable from the Federal Government Printer or the Federal Department of Statistics. A *Digest of Statistics*, which includes summary particulars of Nigeria's overseas trade, is compiled and published quarterly by the Federal Government Statistician. Quarterly statistics and periodical reviews of overseas trade are also included in *The Nigeria Trade Journal* published quarterly by the Federal Department of Commerce and Industries.

cotton and groundnuts. The groundnut crop was only two-thirds that of the previous season. A further factor in the drop in exports was the fall in the average price of cocoa, from £205 per ton in 1956, to £192 per ton in 1957.

43. The values of imports and exports by country of origin were :—

| | (£ thousands) Imports | Exports |
|---|---|---|
| *Sterling Area :* | | |
| Eire | 80 | 34 |
| Ghana | 132 | 680 |
| Hong Kong | 2,285 | 1 |
| Iceland | 1,973 | 4 |
| India | 6,035 | 55 |
| South Africa | 785 | 46 |
| United Kingdom | 65,589 | 77,747 |
| Other countries | 1,598 | 275 |
| Total Sterling Area | 78,477 | 78,842 |
| *Non-Sterling Area :* | | |
| Belgium-Luxembourg | 1,868 | 1,887 |
| Canada | 632 | 789 |
| Czechoslovakia | 1,922 | 287 |
| France | 1,988 | 5,426 |
| French Possessions | 236 | 238 |
| Germany—East | 1,385 | — |
| Germany—West | 11,180 | 5,962 |
| Italy and Trieste | 3,187 | 6,417 |
| Japan | 17,602 | 26 |
| Netherlands | 7,902 | 12,478 |
| Netherlands Possessions | 1,409 | — |
| Norway | 6,230 | 341 |
| United States of America | 8,113 | 7,606 |
| Other countries | 7,429 | 2,887 |
| Total Non-Sterling Area | 71,023 | 44,344 |
| Parcel Post | 2,119 | — |
| Ships' Stores | — | 12 |
| Re-exports (including parcel post) | — | 3,391 |
| Total | 151,619 | 126,589 |

44. Trade with the Sterling Area was fairly evenly balanced but imports from the non-Sterling Area countries exceeded exports by some £26.5 million. The United Kingdom remained the principal source of imports, providing 43.2 per cent of the total ; Japan, 11.6 per cent, and Western Germany, 7.3 per cent, were the next in order of importance. The principal destinations of exports were United Kingdom 61.4 per cent ; Netherlands 9.8 per cent ; and the United States of America 6 per cent.

## TRADE BY COUNTRIES

45. *United Kingdom.*—The most important individual items imported from the United Kingdom were 30,000 tons of sugar, 66,000 tons of salt, 1.7 million gallons of beer, 23.7 million square yards of cotton piece goods, 400,000 tons of cement, 75,000 tons of constructional iron and steel and 7,827 road motor vehicles. The principal items exported to the United Kingdom were 79,000 tons of bananas, 59,000 tons of cocoa, 164,000 tons of groundnuts, 305,000 tons of palm kernels, 184,000 tons of vegetable oils, 14,000 tons of tin, 23,000 tons of rubber and 7.4 million cubic feet of timber.

46. *Other countries in the Sterling Area.*—India supplied some 55 million square yards of cotton piece goods and 17 million jute bags ; Hong Kong, textiles, household utensils and enamelware ; Iceland, stockfish. Exports to these territories were negligible.

47. *Japan.*—The value of imports from Japan, at £17.6 million, was £2.5 million lower than in the previous year. The reduction was mainly due to much lower prices for rayon piece goods but also to a large decrease in purchases of corrugated iron sheets. Exports to Japan, at £25,751, were more than three times higher than ever before, but were still negligible compared with imports.

48. *Western Germany.*—Imports were approximately the same as in the previous year and included 4,212 vehicles, nearly 30,000 tons of cement and 2¼ million gallons of beer. Exports included 19,000 tons of palm kernels, nearly 12,000 tons of cocoa, 3.8 million cubic feet of logs and 3,100 tons of rubber.

49. *Netherlands.*—Among the principal items imported were 1.8 million gallons of beer and 12.7 million square yards of cotton piece goods. The main reason for a fall of nearly £1 million in the value of exports as compared with 1956 was a reduction in the price of cocoa. 21,000 tons of cocoa, 69,600 tons of palm kernels and 28,000 tons of groundnuts were exported to the Netherlands.

50. *U.S.A.*—Imports from the U.S.A. were valued at £8.1 million, the main items being 40,500 tons of flour and 1,766 tons of tobacco. Exports, to a total of £7.6 million, included 25,000 tons of cocoa, 7,500 tons of rubber and 700 tons of columbite.

51. *Other countries.*—Norway supplied 28,000 tons of stockfish ; Canada 3,300 tons of flour ; Belgium 21,700 tons of cement and 1,600 tons of corrugated iron sheets ; Czechoslovakia 1¾ million pairs of shoes ; Italy 11 million gallons of petroleum products and 5 million square yards of cotton piece goods. Exports to France, at £5.4 million, were more than £2 million higher than in 1956 and were a record.

## IMPORTS BY COMMODITIES

52. The principal imports in 1957, by volume and value, together with brief explanatory notes where there was marked change in the pattern of trade, were :—

| *Commodity* | *Unit* | *Quantity* | *Value £'000* | *Remarks* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ale, beer, stout and porter | thousand gallons | 6,160 | 3,158 | Imports declined by 400,000 gallons from those of the previous year, but the production of local beer rose by 700,000 gallons and reached a total of 2.9 million gallons. The net increase in consumption was, therefore, 300,000 gallons. |
| Cars and kitcars | number | 9,637 | 4,135 | The number of units imported was a record, the previous highest figure being 6,670 in 1955. |
| Cement | tons | 510,215 | 4,638 | Imports were over 20,000 tons higher than in 1956 which was previously the record year. Locally manufactured cement from the Nkalagu factory will in future take care of a portion of the increased demand for cement, but the 1957 level of imports is unlikely to fall appreciably until a factory projected in the Western Region comes into production. |

| Commodity | Unit | Quantity | Value £'000 | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Clothing | value | — | 2,835 | |
| Constructional steel | tons | 67,288 | 5,453 | Imports were nearly 14,000 tons and over £2 million higher than in the previous year. This is a direct pointer to the increase in the tempo of industrial development. |
| Corrugated iron sheets | tons | 39,163 | 3,766 | The 1957 figure was 11,000 tons lower than that of 1956 but still well above the 1951-55 average of 33,000 tons a year. The United Kingdom replaced Japan as the principal supplier. |
| Cotton piece goods | thousand sq. yds. | 149,345 | 14,443 | The quantity imported was almost identical with that of the previous year but well below the average of the past five years. India remained the principal supplier followed by the United Kingdom and Japan. |
| Cycles | number | 106,038 | 1,193 | Imports shewed a marked drop from the previous year, partly due to a big carry over of stocks and partly to reduced purchasing power because of lower receipts from cash crops. |
| Electrical machinery and apparatus | value | — | 5,192 | |
| Flour | tons | 44,442 | 2,342 | The steady increase in imports continued, progress over the last five years having been: 1953—19,800 tons; 1954—27,800 tons; 1955—29,000 tons; 1956—34,700 tons. |
| Footwear | value | — | 2,409 | |
| Household utensils | tons | 32,696 | 2,614 | |
| Lorries and chassis | number | 6,730 | 5,035 | The number of lorries and chassis imported showed a drop of 1,304 in number and nearly £2.5m. in value compared with the previous year; 1956 imports were, however, exceptionally high, the pattern over the last few years is such that 1957 figures are indicative of a normal year's trade. |
| Medical preparations | value | — | 2,804 | |
| Paper and board | value | — | 2,063 | |
| Petroleum oils | million gallons | 140 | 7,826 | |
| Produce bags | thousand | 18,628 | 1,933 | |
| Railway rolling stock | value | — | 2,546 | |

| Commodity | Unit | Quantity | Value £'000 | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rayon piece goods | thousand square yards | 150,059 | 11,526 | Although imports were nearly eight million square yards lower than the record figure of 158 million square yards in 1956, the value dropped by over £3.5 million. Rayon has overtaken cotton in popularity, although the value of rayon goods is lower than that of cotton. Japan supplied 140 million of the 150 million square yards imported. |
| Road construction mining and conveying plant | value | — | 2,492 | |
| Salt | tons | 92,246 | 1,632 | |
| Stockfish | tons | 34,868 | 7,699 | Imports were nearly 6,000 tons higher than in 1956 and the market was over-stocked on a number of occasions. |
| Sugar | tons | 32,442 | 2,578 | Although imports dropped by 20,000 tons (approximately 40 per cent) in volume, they were only 12 per cent lower in value than in the previous year. Higher prices of this commodity had a very marked effect on consumption. |
| Tyres and tubes | thousand | 2,810 | 1,759 | |
| Yarns | tons | 1,234 | 777 | |
| Other goods (including parcel post) | value | — | 48,771 | |

## IMPORT CONTROL

53. Changes in the import control regulations during the year were, in the main, designed to liberalise imports. Control had, however, to be reimposed on the importation of gold and gold manufactures, as it was found impractical to rely on the Trading in Gold Ordinance (Cap. 82) and the Exchange Control Ordinance (No. 35 of 1950) to regulate imports of these commodities.

54. Open General Licence No. 1 (All Countries) was amended by Legal Notice No. 3 of 1958, published in the Supplement to the Federation of Nigeria *Official Gazette* No. 4 of 16th January, 1958, by the addition of flour to the commodities which could be imported freely from all countries.

55. The following amendments were made to Open General Import Licence No. 2 of 1956 (Scheduled Territories and Easy Currency Countries) :—

| *Legal Notice* | *Effect* |
|---|---|
| No. 149 of 1957, published in the Federation of Nigeria *Official Gazette* No. 61 of 7th November, 1957 | Added gold and articles of gold manufacture to the list of excepted commodities. |
| No. 156 of 1957, published in the Federation of Nigeria *Official Gazette* No. 62 of 14th November, 1957 | Added Argentina to the schedule of countries covered by the Open General Licence. |

| *Legal Notice* | *Effect* |
|---|---|
| No. 176 of 1957, published in the Federation of Nigeria *Official Gazette* No. 68 of 19th December, 1957 | Added motor spare parts and accessories imported overland from neighbouring territories to the list of excepted commodities. |
| No. 21 of 1958, published in the Federation of Nigeria *Official Gazette* No. 8 of 6th February, 1958 | Removed arms, ammunition and explosives from the list of excepted commodities (in order to dispose with the necessity of obtaining a specific import licence for these goods in addition to the permits issued by the prescribed authority). |

56. A new Open General Import Licence No. 1 of 1958 (Japan), published as Legal Notice No. 175 in the Federation of Nigeria *Official Gazette* No. 68 of 19th December, 1957, freed the importation of the same range of Japanese goods as those allowed under Open General Import Licence No. 2 (Scheduled Territories and Easy Currency Countries) except that corrugated iron sheets, piece goods and singlets were added to the list of exceptions. The last item was specially controlled in order to protect the local singlet industry.

57. Imports from hard currency countries and the Soviet Bloc continued to be restricted to those essential goods not available from soft currency sources.

58. A total of 8,083 Specific Import Licences was issued during the year.

## EXPORTS

59. The principal destinations and values of exports in 1957 are given in the table in paragraph 43 above.

## EXPORTS BY COMMODITIES

60. The principal exports in 1957, by volume and value, together with brief explanatory notes where there was a marked change in the pattern of trade were :—

| *Commodity* | *Unit* | *Quantity* | *Value* £'000 | *Remarks* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Benniseed | tons | 19,206 | 1,366 | All these products were exported by, or under the authority of, the various statutory marketing boards. For detailed information on these commodities, reference should be made to the Annual Report of the Department of Marketing and Exports. |
| Cocoa | tons | 135,300 | 26,036 | |
| Cotton | tons | 25,196 | 6,337 | |
| Cotton seed | tons | 29,302 | 734 | |
| Groundnuts | tons | 302,387 | 20,139 | |
| Groundnut oil | tons | 38,607 | 4,589 | |
| Palm kernels | tons | 406,198 | 17,959 | |
| Palm oil | tons | 166,202 | 13,810 | |
| Gum arabic | tons | 785 | 98 | |
| Hides and skins | tons | 9,219 | 3,113 | Exports in 1957 were below the average attained during the last four years and nowhere near the boom figures of 1950 and 1951 when the value of hides and skins exported reached £6.3 and £7.9 million respectively. |
| Kapok | tons | 97 | 12 | The demand gradually dwindled and there was little interest in the London market in the Nigerian product. |
| Piassava | tons | 2,700 | 117 | |
| Plywood | value | — | 739 | Exports dropped by £150,000 in value from the previous year due to technical difficulties at the factory. |

| *Commodity* | *Unit* | *Quantity* | *Value £'000* | *Remarks* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rubber | tons | 40,014 | 7,023 | The steady price of around £150 per ton resulted in maintained interest in exports, and as new plantations came into bearing, the quantity exported rose by about 5 per cent from the previous year. |
| Spices | tons | 895 | 131 | |
| Timber : | | | | Exports recovered somewhat from the poor year in 1956 and at the end of 1957 there was a spirit of quiet optimism in the trade. Exploitation of the forests in the Southern Cameroons accounted for some of the increase and for the first time timber from the Northern Region was exported. |
| Logs | thousand cubic feet | 12,958 | 3,323 | |
| Sawn | thousand cubic feet | 1,874 | 915 | |
| Tin | tons | 13,577 | 7,031 | The volume of exports showed little change from the previous year. The restrictions imposed by the International Tin Council came too late in 1957 to have any appreciable effect on exports in that year. |

## EXPORT CONTROL

61. An amendment to Open General Export Licence No. 2 of 1956 (Goods and Produce of Nigerian Origin) to control the exportation of lead ore was promulgated in Legal Notice No. 136 of 1957, published in the Federation of Nigeria *Official Gazette* No. 58 of 17th October, 1957.

62. A total of 6,688 specific export licences was issued during the year.

## TRADE ADVISORY SERVICE

63. The staff of the Commerce Branch continued to devote a great deal of time to assisting businessmen, both in Nigeria and overseas through the medium of the trade advisory service.

64. Requests for status reports, as in previous years, were received direct from merchants, through Consular representatives in Lagos or through the Economic Secretary to the Commissioner for Nigeria in the United Kingdom. A total of 2,578 reports was prepared during the year.

65. Efforts to arrange the amicable settlement of trade camplaints continued, but in cases in which all attempts to effect reconciliation or a compromise proved abortive, there was no alternative but to advise recourse to legal proceedings. Out of 265 complaints received during the year, 173 were eventually settled through the efforts of officers of the Department. Where fraud was apparent, the Criminal Investigation Department (Fraud Section) was brought in and the cases handed over to them for action. Of the eight cases referred to the C.I.D. two firms were prosecuted and one convicted. Two cases had to be dropped for lack of evidence ; one was awaiting trial and two were still under investigation at the end of the year.

66. In order to economise in staff, the supervision of the Headquarters Trade Library was undertaken by the officers running the Technical Library of the Industries Branch.

## CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND TRADE ASSOCIATIONS

67. The Department continued to maintain liaison with existing chambers of commerce and trade associations and to encourage the establishment of new associations. Efforts were also made to resuscitate dormant ones, particularly those in Ibadan, Ijebu-Ode and Shagamu. A new association, the Association of West African Travel Agents (Nigeria), was formed in Lagos on the 1st January, 1958.

68. Officers of the Commerce Branch in the Regions frequently attended meetings of associations and gave advice and assistance on their organisation. In so doing, the Department's officers were able to communicate the views of Government on trade and industrial matters and to smooth out difficulties which the associations or their members might be experiencing in interpreting official announcements, etc.

69. The following trade associations were known to be active at the end of the year :—

| *Trade Association* | *Claimed Membership* |
|---|---|
| Aba Importers Association .. .. .. .. .. | 30 |
| Abeokuta Importers and Exporters Association .. .. | unknown |
| African Chamber of Commerce .. .. .. .. | 74 |
| Association of Nigerian Singlet Manufacturers .. .. | 5 |
| Association of West African Travel Agents (Nigeria) .. | 8 |
| Calabar Chamber of Commerce .. .. .. .. | 14 |
| Eastern Association of Importers and Exporters .. .. | 75 |
| Federation of Building and Civil Engineering Contractors .. | 26 |
| General Export Merchants Association .. .. .. | unknown |
| Kano Chamber of Commerce .. .. .. .. | unknown |
| Lagos Association of Benin Carvers .. .. .. .. | 43 |
| Lagos Chamber of Commerce .. .. .. .. .. | 210 |
| Nigeria Timber Association .. .. .. .. .. | 24 |
| Nigerian Association of African Importers and Exporters .. | 103 |
| Nigerian Chamber of Mines .. .. .. .. .. | unknown |
| Nigerian Livestock Dealers Association .. .. .. | 6 |
| Nigerian Rubber Dealers Association .. .. .. | 16 |
| Ondo Chamber of Commerce .. .. .. .. | unknown |
| Onitsha Chamber of Commerce .. .. .. .. | 30 |
| Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria .. .. .. .. | 7 |
| Port Harcourt Chamber of Commerce.. .. .. .. | 31 |
| Union of Importers and Exporters .. .. .. .. | 48 |
| Union of Remo Importers and Exporters .. .. .. | 23 |

## REGISTRATION OF BUSINESS NAMES

70. Comparative statistics of business names registered under Cap. 195 of the Laws of Nigeria were :—

| | *1957-58* | *1956-57* |
|---|---|---|
| Number of applications received .. | 5,418 | 7,569 |
| Number of certificates issued .. | 5,290 | 6,701 |
| Revenue collected .. .. .. | £1,398 | £2,323 |



71. During 1957, 1,925 ship
tons entered Nigerian ports. To
ports as follows :—

| *Port* |
|---|
| Lagos .. .. |
| Port Harcourt .. |
| Burutu .. .. |
| Sapele .. .. |
| Calabar .. .. |
| Warri .. .. |
| Victoria .. .. |
| Tiko .. .. .. |
| Degema .. .. |
| Total |

Of the total, 828,000 tons represe

72. By comparison, 1,553
entered Nigerian ports in 1956 f
year amounted to 5,167,000 tons.

## VI.—

## HANDBOOK OF C

73. The third edition of the
in June, 1957. The demand fo
was such that the first print of 5
publication and a reprint of 2,60

74. Since it first appeared
valuable and detailed guide to N
United States in September/Octo
said "the *Handbook of Commerce*
Survey prepared by the United
November. These, with the *Ni*
by way of practical information
United States and Canada."*

75. The 1957 edition compri
was bound in book form. It inc
of the principal towns in Nigeri
Federal Survey Department.

## N

76. The popularity of the
letters were received from all pa
part in putting Nigeria's name o

* Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1958.

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77. Some 600 copies of each issue were sold abroad and nearly 900 sent to Ch[illegible] Commerce, Trade Associations and Consular representatives overseas. The Princip[illegible] mation Officer and the Economic Secretary to the Commissioner for Nigeria in the [illegible] Kingdom both found the Journal especially useful when dealing with enquiries [illegible] dustrial potentialities and trade. Within Nigeria, some 1,500 copies of each issue we[illegible] Complimentary copies were distributed to all Federal and Regional Ministers, members [illegible] Federal and Regional Legislatures, Government departments and the statutory corpor[illegible]

78. Each issue included regular information on market conditions and trends in N[illegible] a quarterly review of overseas trade, statistics of imports and exports by principal co[illegible] and commodities and by quantity and value, particulars of new company registration[illegible] patents, official announcements on matters connected with trade and industry and deta[illegible] marketing board crops and prices.

79. Special features covered the search for oil, the development of telecommunica[illegible] coffee production, the Port Harcourt wharf extension, the textile mill at Kaduna, the [illegible] Onitsha market, the teaching hospital at Ibadan, the re-organisation of the postal services, [illegible] tea industry in the Southern Cameroons, Regional economic development and a descrip[illegible] of Kano, entitled "Traffic Centre of Africa". Four Ministerial "profiles" were published, [illegible] first being that of the Prime Minister (Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa), followed by th[illegible] of the Federal Ministers of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh), Lagos Affairs, Mines a[illegible] Power (Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu) and Commerce and Industry (Dr K. O. Mbadiwe). The January/March 1958 issue (Vol. 6 No. 1), contained an 8-page section of illustrations reproduced in four colours.

80. Increased postal charges in and from the United Kingdom, and higher production costs made it necessary to increase the annual postal subscription rates, and to raise the price to 2*s* 6*d* per copy. This had no apparent effect on the volume of sales.

81. Pressure for advertising space continued throughout the year and it was not possible to accommodate all requirements. Though offers to represent the Nigeria Trade Journal in South Africa and the Central African Federation, and in the United States of America had to be declined, the fact that they were made indicated the growing importance of the *Trade Journal* overseas. The April/June 1957 issue contained 47 pages, and each of the other issues 51 pages of advertisements. These advertisements brought in a gross revenue of over £4,500—£1,000 more than in the preceding year. Nigerian firms took up 31 pages, overseas firms 41¼ pages and expatriate firms established in Nigeria 127¾ pages; this was an increase of 30 pages, over the previous year.

82. Commercial publications and newspapers in various countries abroad reproduced several articles which had originally appeared in the *Nigeria Trade Journal*, and reprints of other articles were supplied to a number of Government departments, public corporations and commercial houses.

## "MADE IN NIGERIA" EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

83. In connection with the "Made in Nigeria" Exhibition, the Publications Section produced a 76-page catalogue. This was printed in Lagos by a Nigerian firm and included 46 pages of paid-for advertisements, a description of each firm's products and exhibits and background information on the exhibition itself. Of the 2,800 copies printed, 2,162 were sold during the exhibition, and 572 distributed free. The remaining 266 copies were disposed of by subsequent sales and complimentary issues.

84. Posters, press releases and advertisements were prepared and issued, and at the exhibition itself an enquiry desk was maintained at which the Department's other publications and leaflets were available for the public.

## DEPARTMENTAL PRINTING REQUIREMENTS

85. In addition to regular press releases and advertisements, the Publications Section gave advice on the layout of the printing of various official forms, research reports and leaflets. Work was started on a series of pamphlets describing the principal towns in Nigeria, to be called "This is Nigeria". The first pamphlet—that on Lagos—was passed to the Federal Information Service shortly before the end of the year for publication.

# VII.—INDUSTRIES

86. There was no change in the main functions of the Industries Branch, details of which have been given in previous annual reports.

87. During the year, the branch undertook the following additional work :—

(*a*) carrying out the detailed investigations required under the Industrial Development (Import Duties Relief) Ordinance, 1957

(*b*) investigating major industrial projects in the Regions for the development of which entrepreneurs had sought financial assistance from the Federal Loans Board (it was previously assumed that the Regional authorities would undertake these investigations)

(*c*) registering, under the terms of Government Notice No. 2136 of 1956, approved suppliers to Federal Government Departments of locally manufactured goods.

## STAFF

88. *Establishment*.—The shortage of senior staff referred to in previous reports continued during the year and although the establishment was increased on the 1st April, 1957, it was not possible to recruit suitably qualified and experienced personnel to fill the new posts.

89. *Vacancies*.—The following posts were vacant throughout the year :—

1 Engineer

1 Senior Industrial Officer

3 Industrial Officers

2 Assistant Industrial Officers-in-Training

2 Assistant Boatbuilding Superintendents-in-Training

and every aspect of the work of the branch was handicapped by this shortage of qualified staff.

90. One officer was stationed at the Department's boatyard at Opobo and another was seconded to the Nigerian Spinning Company's textile mill at Mushin. The rest of the staff served at departmental headquarters in Lagos.

91. The creation of the posts of Assistant Industrial Officer, Assistant Industrial Officer-in-Training and Assistant Boatbuilding Superintendent-in-Training opened the way for Nigerians with suitable academic qualifications to obtain the necessary experience to fit them for promotion to more senior posts in the branch. Two Assistant Industrial Officers and two Assistant Industrial Officers-in-Training were appointed during the year, but no Nigerian candidates came forward for direct promotion to the Industrial Officer grade.

92. A training programme for Assistant Industrial Officers and Assistant Industrial Officers-in-Training was drawn up and submitted to the Nigerianisation Officer. This programme included a series of films on industry, some of which were lent by commercial firms. One Assistant Industrial Officer was posted to the Federal Boatyard at Opobo in order to gain first-hand experience of working in industry.

101. The basic design of the "Creekcraft" was improved and the 1958 model, which was demonstrated in Lagos towards the end of the year, proved most popular. Two Creekcraft built in the previous year and two built in the year under review were sold; of these, two were intended for use between Lagos and Sapele but proved so successful in Lagos as a ferry between Idunmagbo Marina and Ebute Metta that they never went to Sapele.

102. New woodworking equipment was purchased for the boatyard and a number of daily-paid employees were transferred to the permanent staff. The Boatbuilding Superintendents gave technical advice to a number of private water transport operators and answered queries from Aden and Ghana.

## TEXTILE TRAINING CENTRE, LAGOS

103. The equipment of the Lagos Textile Training Centre, which closed down on 31st March, 1957, was disposed of and the accounts finalised.

## ASSISTANCE TO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

104. *Aid to Pioneer Industries Ordinance.*—The manufacture of pharmaceuticals, carbon dioxide, lead-acid accumulators, matches, fertilisers, sacks and bags, metal goods, footwear, glue, rubber products, and the machine cleaning of kapok were declared "pioneer industries" during the year.

105. Pioneer certificates were issued to the following companies:—

Nigerian Asbestos Products Limited
National Chemical Industries Limited
Northern Enamel Company Limited
Nigerian Tarpaulin Manufacturing Co. Limited.

106. In all, 30 industries had been declared as pioneer by the 31st March, 1958. These were :—

Cottonseed processing
Manufacture of Portland cement
Manufacture of rubber soled shoes
Manufacture of cabin bread biscuits
Underground mining methods for the extraction of lead zinc ores as opposed to open cast mining
Manufacture of textiles, including preparation, spinning, weaving and finishing
Manufacture of travel goods involving the use of a substantial proportion of Nigerian raw materials
Manufacture of canned foodstuffs
Manufacture of tarpaulins
Manufacture of plastics
Manufacture of vitreous enamelware
Manufacture of paper and paper pulp
Milling of cereals
Manufacture of glassware
Manufacture of tyres and tubes
Manufacture of paint, enamel, lacquer, varnish, paint driers and thinners and other colouring or protective materials, including distempers
Manufacture of sugar confectionery
Manufacture of asbestos cement products
Manufacture of ceramics
Manufacture of pharmaceuticals
Manufacture of carbon dioxide
Manufacture and assembly of lead-acid accumulators
Manufacture of matches
Machine-cleaning of kapok
Manufacture of agricultural fertilisers

Manufacture from natural and synthetic fibres of sacks, bags and textiles including preparation, spinning, weaving and finishing
Manufacture of footwear
Manufacture of goods made wholly or partly of rubber
Manufacture of goods made wholly or partly of metals other than precious metals
Bone crushing

107. *Industrial Development* (*Income Tax Relief*) *Ordinance*.—In the light of experience in the operation of the Aid to Pioneer Industries Ordinance (No. 10 of 1952) which had showed that it was not sufficiently attractive to the overseas investor, a new Ordinance, the Industrial Development (Income Tax Relief) Ordinance (No. 8 of 1958) was enacted in March, 1958.

108. *Industrial Development* (*Import Duties Relief*) *Ordinance*.—The recommendations of the committee which sat in 1956 to advise the Government on the steps which should be taken to afford relief from import duty to industries, were embodied in the Industrial Development (Import Duties Relief) Ordinance (No. 27 of 1957) which was approved by the House of Representatives in August, 1957. Regulations under the Ordinance were published in October, and by the end of the year 17 applications for relief had been received, of which one was approved and the remainder were still under consideration. Applications for relief were received from the following manufacturing industries :—

Plastics
Steel storage tanks, (assembly)
Singlets
Tarpaulins, mail bags and hatch covers
Footwear
Groundnut decorticating machines
Terazzo and mosaic floor tiles
Pre-stressed concrete products
Shirts

109. *The Dumped and Subsidised Goods Ordinance*.—The Bill for the Customs Duties (Dumped and Subsidised Goods) Ordinance (No. 9 of 1958) was passed by the Federal Legislature in March. Under this Ordinance, which is based on similar United Kingdom legislation, the Federal Government may impose special import duty on particular classes of goods where it is shown that such goods are being exported from their country of origin at prices below the fair market price in that country.

110. *Federal Loans Board*.—The Federal Loans Board met seven times during the year. The Director was a member of the Board and of its Staff Committee and the Principal Industrial Officer attended the meetings in an advisory capacity. The Board approved 18 loans, to a total value of £73,600, in the following trades :—

Badge making
Baking
Cabinet making
Civil engineering
Coffee milling
Joinery
Mattress making
Printing
Radio and electrical engineering
Sawmilling
Tailoring
Water transport

111. Since its inception, the Board has approved a total of 23 loans to a total value of £102,000.

112. The Industrial Loans (Lagos and Federation) Ordinance, 1956, requires that the Board should refer every application for a loan to the Director of Commerce and Industries for investigation. During the year, 62 such applications were thoroughly examined by the Department and recommendations were made to the Board. Owing to the shortage of technical staff in the Industries Branch, referred to in paragraph 88 above, it was not possible to process as many applications as either the Department or the Board wished, and at the end of the year, there were 27 applications still under investigation and a further 60 awaiting attention.

## PURCHASE OF LOCALLY MANUFACTURED GOODS

113. Under the scheme by which the Federal Government requires Departments to purchase locally manufactured goods where the price, quality and delivery of these are comparable with those of similar imported goods, the following 45 industrial enterprises were approved as manufacturers in 25 different trades :—

| *Product* | *Manufacturer* |
|---|---|
| Canned meat and vegetables | Nigerian Canning Co. Limited, Kano |
| Kapok | A. J. Karouni, Limited, Kano; Balmore Trading Company, Kano; United Development Trading Company, Ibadan |
| Common soap | Lever Bros. (Nigeria) Limited, Apapa; Raad and Fadoul, Limited, Kano; Alagbon Industries Limited, Aba |
| Spray and powder insecticides | United Africa Company of Nigeria, Limited, Lagos; |
| Plywood | African Timber and Plywood Company, Limited, Sapele |
| Exercise books, cash books and other items of stationery not normally supplied by the Federal Government Printer | Thomas Wyatt and Sons (W.A.) Limited, Ebute Metta; Western Region Printing Corporation, Ibadan |
| Tarpaulins, mailbags and industrial canvas covers | Tarpaulin Industries (W. Africa) Limited, Lagos; Nigerian Tarpaulin Manufacturing Co. Limited, Kano |
| Textiles : Bedford cord | Kano Citizens Trading Co. Limited, Kano |
| Hand-woven cotton piece goods | Aba Textile Centre, Aba |
| Grey, bleached, khaki or other colour-dyed drill | Nigerian Spinning Co. Limited, Mushin; Kano Citizens Trading Co. Limited, Kano |
| Cement | Nigerian Cement Co. Limited, Nkalagu, Nr. Enugu |
| Pre-stressed concrete posts, poles, pipes, beams and other pre-stressed concrete products | Nigerian Pre-stressed Concrete Co. Limited, Abeokuta |
| Concrete blocks, slabs, fencing posts and pipes to B.S.S. | Gazal Industrial Enterprises, Kano |
| Agricultural lime or colour wash | Anosike Lime Works Limited, Port Harcourt; |
| Cement flooring tiles (including terazzo tiles) | Dabian West Africa Tile Factory, Kano; Gazal Industrial Enterprises, Kano; E. Khawam, Lagos; Nigerian Industrial Products, Ibadan; Bishara Stephen's Tile Factory, Kano |
| Bulk liquid storage vessels, steel structures including prefabricated building frames, bridges, etc. | Amalgamated Engineering Co. Limited, Lagos |
| Name plates, road signs and other castings in aluminium or bronze; artistic plaster castings | West African Aluminium Foundry, Lagos |
| Galvanised iron holloware (dust-bins, etc.) | Odedina Brothers, Lagos |
| Lead acid accumulators (car and lorry batteries, etc.) | J. I. A. Enterprises (Electrical) Limited, Lagos |

120. Since the inception of this service, 7,500 copies of the 30 issues published have been circulated and 1,838 enquiries received.

121. A more attractive cover was introduced during the year and additional information, designed to enhance the usefulness of the service, was provided.

## INDUSTRIAL REGISTER

122. One of the difficulties which arose from the splitting up of the Industries branch in 1954 has been maintenance of adequate records of industrial enterprise throughout the Federation. During the year, a start was made on listing industries throughout the country and by the end of the year, records had been compiled of the following numbers of firms :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Northern Region | 200 |
| Eastern Region | 228 |
| Western Region | 152 |
| Southern Cameroons | 38 |

These figures include manufacturers and establishments providing industrial services such as garages, workshops, and similar enterprises, whether private or Government owned.

## VISITORS

123. *Overseas.*—Of the 241 visitors who called on the Industries branch in connection with major industrial matters, 73 came from overseas and posed specific questions about the following industries :—

flour milling, bakery machinery, perfumery, paper making, prefabricated buildings, sewing thread manufacture, salt mining, pharmaceutical manufactures, steel window frame manufacture, fiberite container manufacture, saw doctoring, coir fibre production, bicycle assembly, umbrella assembly and paint manufacture.

124. *Local.*—Many small Nigerian industrialists visited the Department to obtain advice on a variety of problems ; among the industries concerned were :—

boat-building, fruit squash manufacture, laundering, lime burning, mechanical engineering, soap making and textiles.

## TECHNICAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE TO OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND OFFICIAL BODIES

125. The Department continued to receive requests for technical assistance in industrial matters from Federal and Regional Government departments and from the Regional production development boards and similar bodies. In particular, an officer experienced in woodworking advised the Public Works Department in the reorganisation of the staffing of the Ijora sawmill and the Boatbuilding Superintendents gave considerable assistance to departments that were considering the purchase of marine craft.

126. Drawings and constructional details of craft designed at the Federal boatyard continued to be made available to the Regional boatyards.

127. Regular liaison meetings were held with the Regional Controller, Colonial Development Corporation ; information was exchanged on the progress of industrial schemes and economic problems were discussed. Close ties were also maintained with the Economic Secretary to the Commissioner for Nigeria in the United Kingdom and his staff.

## OTHER MATTERS

128. *Duala Yarn Scheme.*—Efforts to dispose of the cotton yarn which had been spun in Duala in 1952 continued and finally, towards the end of the year, authority was received to dispose of the remaining stocks as cleaning waste. The accounts were then closed and submitted for audit.

129. *Accounts.*—A great deal of the Industrial Accountant's time was occupied in clearing up the accounts of several old schemes ; nevertheless he was able to supervise and reconstruct the accounts of the Opobo boatyard and to maintain cost accounts for the Nigerian Spinning Company. Because of his preoccupation with these matters, the Accountant was not able to give as much time as was desirable to helping small industrialists to set up and maintain proper accounts.

130. *Visits of Persons of Importance to Lagos Industries.*—Visits to some of the factories operating in the Lagos area were arranged for the Federal Minister of Commerce and Industry, the Minister of Education and Commerce and Industry, Sierra Leone, a representative of the Sudan Government who accompanied the Prime Minister of the Sudan, and the mission from the Commonwealth Development Finance Company.

## GENERAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

131. No reliable statistics were available as to the value of Nigerian industrial production, but the following figures are indicative of some of the industries :—

| *Exports in* 1957 | *Unit* | *Quantity* | *Value* £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Plywood | — | — | 738,834 |
| Glycerine | tons | 784 | 94,483 |
| Preserved fruit (mainly canned) | lbs. | 114,975 | 6,299 |
| Fruit juices | galls. | 61,345 | 15,625 |
| Groundnut cake | tons | 42,006 | 1,040,725 |
| Groundnut oil | tons | 38,607 | 4,589,177 |
| Sawn timber | cu. ft. | 1,873,544 | 914,740 |
| Crepe rubber | tons | 10,651 | 1,533,134 |
| Leather | cwts. | 2,431 | 126,518 |
| Palm kernel meal | tons | 1,115 | 23,439 |
| Chilled or canned meat | — | — | 70,199 |

132. The production of beer and cigarettes was as follows :—

Beer .. .. .. 2,905,874 gallons

Cigarettes .. .. approximately 2,400 million

133. The following new industries started production during 1957/58 :—

- Cement from local limestone
- Cement from imported clinker
- Cotton baft
- Plastic piping
- Tarpaulins
- Car batteries
- Gramophone records
- Groundnut decorticators
- Acetylene gas
- Umbrellas (assembly only)

134. The following established industries set up new factories which went into production during the year :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Soap | Crepe rubber |
| Brewing | Cigarettes |
| Mineral waters | Sawmilling |
| Tyre retreading | |

In addition, bulk oil storage facilities were considerably expanded.

135. Factories were under construction at the end of the year for the manufacture of the following :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Soap | Carbon dioxide |
| Rubber goods | Mineral waters |

136. Agreements were signed for the erection of factories to manufacture cement from local limestone and metal window frames but construction had not begun before the close of the year.

## VIII.—FEDERAL INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

### GENERAL

137. In February, 1958, the title of the Institute was changed to the Federal Institute of Industrial Research to indicate more clearly its field of activities.

138. The Institute continued to develop and further equipment was installed in the temporary buildings.

139. A Director of Research was appointed on 2nd October, 1957 and devoted much of his time to the consideration of research projects and to estimating the staff, funds and equipment needed. A proposal was formulated, in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, for the setting up of a programme advisory committee. Meanwhile the research work continued largely along the lines of investigations in hand during 1956-57 with exploratory work in other fields.

### FINANCIAL PROVISION

140. The boat-building section at Opobo, which in the previous year's Estimates had erroneously been shown as part of the Institute, reverted to the Industries branch and certain special expenditure was transferred to the Capital Budget. As a result, the Estimates for the recurrent and special expenditure of the Institute was reduced to £37,590, approximately half that of the previous year.

141. A sum of £25,500 (consisting of £15,000 working capital and £10,500 for unsuccessful experiments) was taken from the Capital Budget of the Institute under the 1955-60 Economic Programme to provide for the requirements of the Opobo boatyard.

### ADMINISTRATION

142. For administrative purposes, the Institute continued as a branch of the Department. In particular, the Institute relied on the Department for services in respect of recruitment and staff records, payments, receipts and accounting, transport and travelling, and the preparation of indents. In turn, the Institute provided the Department with considerable assistance in respect of transport maintenance, the storage of goods and machinery and miscellaneous constructional work. The last item placed a particularly heavy burden on the workshop staff during the last three months of the year when the "Made in Nigeria" exhibition was being assembled and dismantled.

143. In spite of the administrative services provided by the department, it was found in practice that a considerable proportion of the time of the scientific staff of the Institute had to be devoted to non-technical routine matters, particularly the preparation of vouchers, payment of wages and reconciliation of accounts.

144. In order to ensure that the research work of the Institute should be adequately recorded and easily available for reference, a series of registered laboratory and design notebooks was instituted.

## STAFF

145. Recruitment of staff remained difficult and the work of the Institute was conditioned largely by this factor. Statistics referring to staff (excluding daily-paid workers) are given below :—

(*a*) *Effective Personnel* (excluding staff on leave)

| | *Maximum* | *Minimum* | *Authorised Establishment* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Senior .. .. .. .. .. .. | 7 | 4 | 15 |
| Junior .. .. .. .. .. .. | 19 | 13 | 26 |

(*b*) *Recruitment during 1957-58*

| | *Post* | *Date* |
|---|---|---|
| *Senior* .. | Director (Head) of Research .. .. .. .. | 1-10-57 |
| | Senior Research Officer (temporary) .. .. .. | 1-12-57 |
| | Research Officer .. .. .. .. .. .. | 23-12-57 |
| *Junior* .. | Third-class Technical Assistants .. .. .. | 25-9-57 |
| | | 21-10-57 |
| | | 6-1-58 |
| | Third-class Clerks .. .. .. .. .. .. | 4-12-57 |
| | | 3-1-58 |
| | | 17-1-58 |
| | Library Assistant, Grade III .. .. .. .. | 2-1-58 |

(*c*) *Losses during 1957-58*

| | *Post* | *Date* | *Reason* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Junior* | First-class Technical Assistant | 1-7-57 | Appointed Textile Manager and transferred to Eastern Region. |
| | First-class Technical Assistant | 23-9-57 | Promoted Assistant Industrial Officer *w.e.f.* 1-4-57 and transferred to Industries branch. |
| | Third-class Technical Assistant | 20-1-58 | Transferred to Nigerianisation Office to undergo training course in science under the Emergency Training Scheme, |
| | Third-class Clerk | 11-2-58 | Transferred to departmental headquarters. |

## BUILDINGS AND SITE DEVELOPMENT

146. A store for inflammable materials was constructed and various minor improvements were made in the temporary buildings.

147. A scheme for development of the site was prepared and submitted to the Federal Public Works Department, together with details of the design of the first permanent laboratories and offices required by the Institute. The Federal Public Works Department architects then prepared preliminary plans for the administration building, the research laboratories, the semi-works scale research building; and the workshops. Construction of foundations for the workshop building began in March 1958.

## RESEARCH WORK

### Gari and Cassava Products

148. *Gari as a Village Industry*.—The equipment designed to improve the methods of gari making commonly used in village compounds was completed early in the year. The essential parts of this were :—

(*a*) a hand-operated mechanical grater ;

(*b*) a mechanical press ; and

(*c*) a cooking range with four frying pans.

149. The equipment was used throughout the year for the production of batches of gari (up to some 80 lbs. in a batch) to study the possible savings in labour, firewood and total time using various modifications of the standard procedures. The quality of the product was assessed by the students at the Commonwealth Institute for the Blind at Ikeja.

150. It was found that worthwhile savings were achieved using the new equipment and that conditions of hygiene during processing were better. A report on this work was nearly ready for publication at the end of the year.

151. While this work was proceeding, research was started in the laboratory on the fundamental chemistry and microbiology of the fermentation stage during which hydrocyanic acid is released and flavours are developed. On the bacteriological side, assistance was sought from Professor Patrick Collard, M.D., M.R.C.P., Professor of Bacteriology at University College, Ibadan, who reported his findings to date as follows :—

"The Investigation of the Process of preparing Gari from Grated Cassava

"The aims of the investigation were :—

(*a*) To determine whether the ripening process was autolytic, activated by enzymes released from disrupted cells in the cassava root, or was a fermentation caused by the activities of specific micro-organisms ;

(*b*) to develop, if possible, a more rapid ripening process, so as to make the large scale mechanical production of gari more economic.

"After an investigation extending over some months, and involving the culture of many examples of ripening pressed cassava pulp, two organisms which were constantly present during the first four days were isolated in pure culture. These were :

(*i*) a species of propionobacterium which hydrolyses starch with the production of various organic acids ; and

(*ii*) a fungus of the genus geotrichium which acts upon the organic acids, producing, amongst other products, characteristic sweet-smelling esters. Both of these organisms are being sent to the United Kingdom for final identification. The propionobacterium is probably a new species.

"From this evidence it was deduced that the preparation of gari from cassava was a fermentation caused by the synergistic action of the propionobacterium and the geotrichium, the sequence of events probably being as follows : initially the propionobacterium grows gaining energy by hydrolysing the starch, thus producing fatty acids and lowering the pH. At this point the cyanogenetic glycocide is very unstable at acid pH, undergoing spontaneous hydrolysis with liberation of free HCN. When sufficient fatty acid has been produced the medium becomes favourable for the growth of the geotrichium which becomes the dominant organism and esterification of the fatty acids produces the characteristic taste of gari.

"Working on this hypothesis, a technique by which palatable gari can be produced after 24 hours' fermentation has been developed, using the pressing water as a starter for the next day's cassava fermentation. It has also proved possible to produce palatable gari in 24 hours by inoculating the freshly pressed cassava pulp with pure cultures of the propionobacterium and the geotrichium together."

152. In the Institute laboratory, a partially purified fraction containing the cyanogenetic glycocide was prepared but its molecular structure has not yet been determined. It was, however, discovered that it becomes unstable at low pH and this may provide the basis for a more rapid and positive removal of the HCN from the pulp on the factory scale.

153. Attempts were made also to isolate the esters apparently responsible for the characteristic flavour of good gari for identification and quantitative estimation. It was found that their concentrations were very low and, as large scale steam distillation equipment was not available, it did not prove possible to isolate a sufficient quantity for analysis.

154. The "seeding" technique worked out on the basis of the bacteriology reported by Professor Collard was checked under practical "village" conditions by operating a ten-day continuous production series in the village scale equipment and no difficulties were encountered. After about the sixth day, it was found that good gari was made by "seeding" the fresh pulp with liquor from the previous day's pressing, the pulp being then held in the press for only one day.

155. *Mechanised processing of gari.*—In the light of the new knowledge of the fundamentals of the process gained from the above work, proposals made in 1954 for a pilot scale factory unit having an output of about a ton of gari a day were revised and estimates of the costs of construction and operating such a plant were assembled.

156. *Fortified gari.*—No direct work was carried out in the Institute on the addition of proteins, vitamins, etc. to gari, but contact was established with the proposed Nutritional Council for Nigeria and balanced soya flour was produced in 20 lb. batches from time to time for use by Dr Bassir in feeding experiments.

## Fibres and Textiles

157. *Machine processing of leaf and bast fibres.*—The detailed design and construction of a multi-purpose fibre preparation machine, invented by the Designer-Engineer, was undertaken and a final patent specification, assigned to the Federal Government of Nigeria, was filed. No operational trials were possible up to the end of the year.

158. *Hand spinning and weaving of bast and leaf fibres. Cordage and rope making by hand.*—No experimental work was carried out on these subjects but the rope spinning head was sent to Maiduguri in charge of a demonstrator, to give instruction in the production of better quality ropes to the School for Blind Persons there.

159. *Mechanical extraction of coir fibres.*—The plant for extraction of coir from coconut husk was operated from time to time, mainly to provide a stock of material for trials on the fibre preparation machine mentioned in paragraph 157 above.

160. *Retting of bast fibres.*—In view of the failure of the normal tank retting process as applied to *urena lobata* at Mokwa by the Northern Region Department of Trade and Industry in November-December, 1957, the assistance of Professor Collard was sought in a preliminary examination of the microbiology of the process. It was thought that the failure of the ret might be due to the over-processing of the fibre by the field ribboner used to extract the fibre, and this might be removing too much of the material needed as food by the bacteria. Professor Collard found, however, that the dried ribbons had a very low initial pH (which might be due to bacterial action during drying in the field) and that retting proceeded normally when this acidity was corrected chemically. In the course of his work Professor Collard was able to isolate from the whole stems a thermophylic bacterium which would complete a ret in 2-5 days at 95°F.-85°F., at a pH of 6 to 7.

## Vegetable Oils and Seeds

161. *General.*—An examination was made of the fruit of *pachylobus edulis* (African pear) which was found to contain about 20 per cent of a good non-drying table oil. The dry residue contained about 20 per cent of crude protein.

162. *Cashew Nuts.*—Preliminary studies were carried out on the recovery of cashew nutshell liquid and of edible kernel. The optimum roasting conditions for producing edible kernels from fresh nuts appeared to be four minutes heating at 140°C. but the quality of the kernel was not very good. The nutshell liquid could then be extracted by solvents. Preliminary attempts were also made to recover part of the nutshell liquid by a purely mechanical process prior to the recovery of the kernel.

163. *Utilisation of Vegetable Wastes—Manufacture of Bonded Boards.*—Following the United Nations international conference in Geneva last year at which a member of the staff of the Institute represented Nigeria, some interest in this subject has been shown by various bodies in Nigeria. Small samples of bonded board were made up from various forms of sawmill waste bonded with resin cements at the request of the Colonial Development Corporation. White afara, erun, mahogany and opepe were used in preparing these samples.

### Heavy Chemicals

164. *Salt from Sea Water.*—No research or experimental work was carried out on this subject but available meteorological data was studied as a basis for further programmes.

165. *Microbiological Oxidation of Sulphur.*—Columns of elementary sulphur, galena, zinc blende and marcasite were inoculated with cultures of *thiobacillus thio-oxidans* supplied by Professor Collard, and observations made of the production of sulphuric acid and metal sulphates. The same micro-organism has been indentified in the water from the mines at Abakaliki. No indication of a possible industrial application for this type of process had been found by the end of the year.

### Drugs and Cosmetics—Resins, Gums and Waxes—Essential Oils

166. A survey of the literature covering these general subjects was made with special reference to plant materials available in Nigeria. Consideration was given to possible long term projects of research which may lead to useful commercial development.

## SAMPLE TESTING

167. The examination of samples submitted (largely in connection with trade complaints) involved the carrying out of many tests and 58 laboratory reports were issued. 51 of these referred to textiles.

## PUBLICATIONS

168. During the year, the following were published :—

Research Report No. 1—"The Preservation and Bottling of Palm Wine" by S. S. Levi and C. B. Oruche.

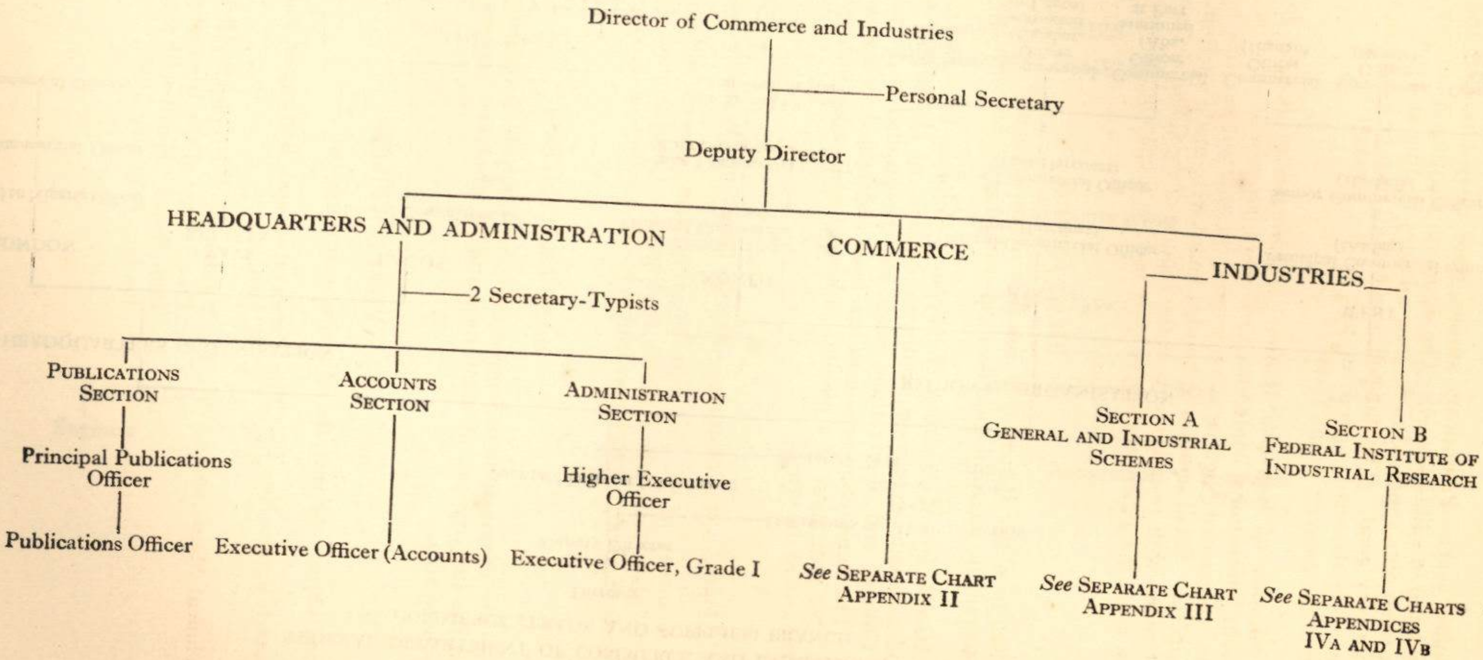
Technical Memorandum No. 1—"Summary of a report by R. A. Norcross, D.F.M., on the Proceedings of the International Consultation on Insulation Board, Hardboard and Particle Board, Geneva, January-February, 1957."

Lagos, 17th June, 1958.

R. E. Vidal,
*Acting Director*

# FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES

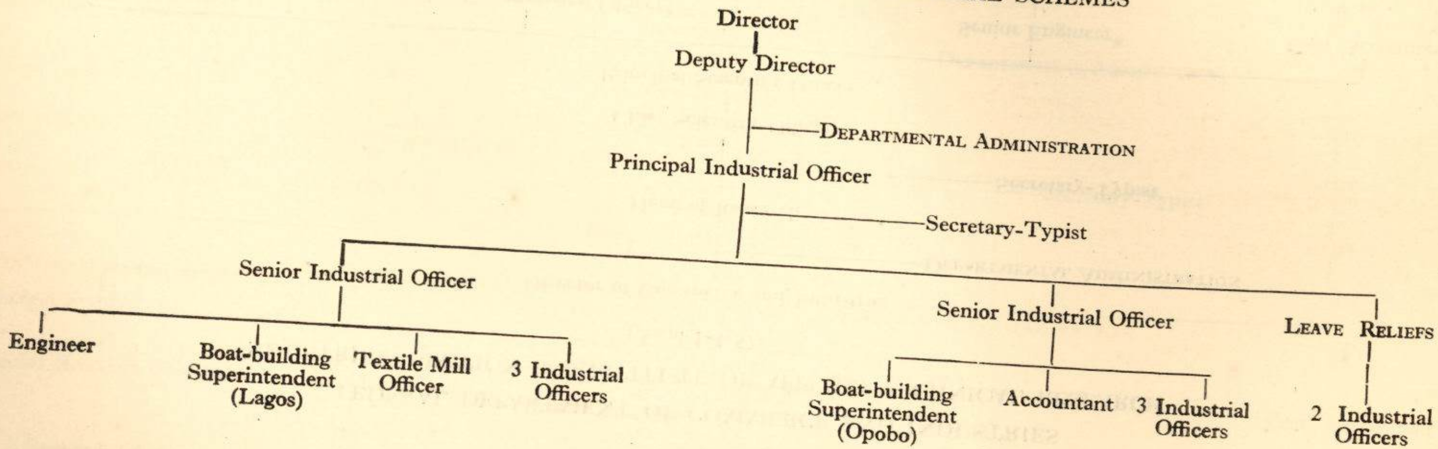
## 1957-58



## FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES, 1957-58
## COMMERCE (TRADE AND SUPPLIES) BRANCH

- Director
  - Deputy Director
    - DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION
    - Assistant Director (Commerce)
      - Secretary-Typist
      - HEADQUARTERS ORGANISATION
        - LONDON
          - (Seconded to Nigeria Office)
            - Senior Commercial Officer
              - 2 Commercial Officers
        - LEAVE RELIEFS
          - 4 Commercial Officers
        - LAGOS
          - Principal Commercial Officer
            - Senior Commercial Officer (Supplies)
              - Commercial Officer (Imports)
              - Commercial Officer (Exports)
            - Senior Commercial Officer (Trade)
              - Commercial Officer (Status Reports)
              - Commercial Officer (Trade Information)
              - Commercial Officer (Trade Complaints)
      - REGIONAL ORGANISATION
        - NORTH
          - Principal Commercial Officer (Kano)
            - Senior Commercial Officer (Kano, stationed at Jos)
              - Commercial Officer (Jos, stationed at Kano)
        - EAST
          - Principal Commercial Officer (Port Harcourt)
            - Senior Commercial Officer (Port Harcourt)
              - Commercial Officer (Onitsha)
              - Commercial Officer (Calabar, stationed in Lagos)
              - Commercial Officer (Aba, stationed at Port Harcourt
        - WEST
          - Principal Commercial Officer (Ibadan)
            - Senior Commercial Officer (Ibadan)
              - Commercial Officer (Ibadan)
              - Commercial Officer (Sapele)
              - Commercial Officer (Akure)

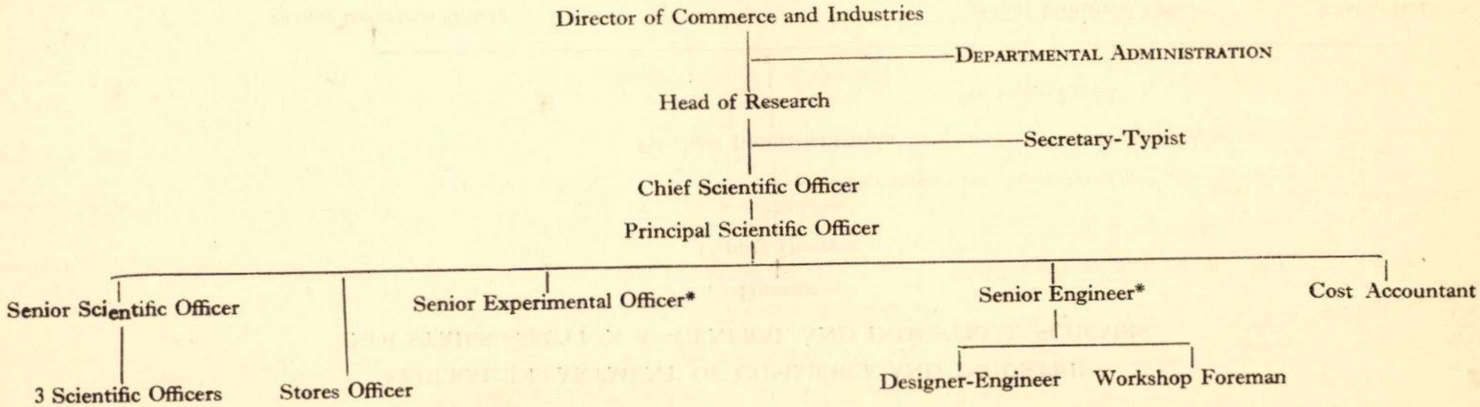
## FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES
## INDUSTRIES—SECTION A—GENERAL AND INDUSTRIAL SCHEMES



*APPENDIX IVA*

## FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES
## INDUSTRIES—SECTION B—INSTITUTE OF APPLIED TECHNICAL RESEARCH

(As at 1-4-57)




* Previously designated as Senior Scientific Officer

*APPENDIX IVB*

## FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES

## FEDERAL INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

(As at 31-3-58)

- Director of Commerce and Industries
  - Departmental Administration
  - Director of Research
    - Secretary-Typist
    - Deputy Director of Research
      - Principal Research Officer
        - 2 Senior Research Officers
          - 3 Research Officers
      - Senior Engineer
        - Designer-Engineer
        - Workshop Foreman
      - Cost Accountant
        - Stores Officer

# STATEMENT OF ACTUAL EXPENDITURE, 1957-58

## A.—RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

### Head 61—Commerce and Industries

| | £ | s | d |
|---|---|---|---|
| Personal Emoluments .. .. .. .. .. .. | 102,428 | 18 | 4 |
| Other Charges .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 28,437 | 9 | 4 |
| Special Expenditure .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 6,621 | 19 | 0 |
| | £137,488 | 6 | 8 |

## B.—CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

### Head 605—Other Capital Expenditure

| | | | £ | s | d |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sub-head 9(1) | —Federal Institute of Industrial Research | | | | |
| | | : building and equipment .. .. | 11,628 | 8 | 7 |
| 9(2) | ” | : working capital .. .. .. | — | — | — |
| 9(3) | ” | : unsuccessful experiments .. .. | 7,598 | 3 | 3 |
| 9(4) | ” | : machinery .. .. .. .. | 4,732 | 19 | 8 |
| 9(5) | ” | : buildings, etc. .. .. .. | 40,814 | 7 | 2 |
| 9(6) | ” | : working capital .. .. .. | — | — | — |
| | | | £64,773 | 18 | 8 |

## STATEMENT OF ACTUAL REVENUE, 1957-58

| | £ | s | d |
|---|---|---|---|
| HEAD 5—FEES | | | |
| Sub-head 7—Registration of Business Names .. .. .. .. | 3,171 | 14 | 2 |
| HEAD 7—EARNINGS AND SALES | | | |
| Sub-head 27—Nigeria Trade Journal, etc. .. .. .. .. | 7,120 | 0 | 0 |
| | £10,291 | 14 | 2 |

28–5–58
31–5–58
10-11–58
3–12–58

1261/1258/850 (100)