NIGERIAN SECRETARIAT LIBRARY
NO. M2/41

NIGERIA

Third Annual Report of the Eastern Regional Production Development Board 1951-52

Part I

OD
DT515
E14
P96·035
1951-52

NIGERIAN SECRETARIAT
LIBRARY
No 204 B.16.

Printed by the [illegible] by the
Eastern Regional Production Development Board, Enugu, 1952

Copies of this report can be obtained from The Nigeria Office, 5 Buckingham Gate, London S.W.1, or from the offices of the Eastern Regional Production Development Board, Enugu, Nigeria.

OD
DT515
E14
P96.035
1951-52

CONTENTS

SECTION		PAGE
I.	Introduction	1
II.	Arrangement of Report	2
III.	Legislation	2
IV.	Membership of the Board	3
V.	Meetings of the Board	5
VI.	Policy	5
VII.	Projects Approved by the Board :—	
	(*a*) Schemes Designed to Improve the Quality and Increase the Quantity of Oil Palm Products.	
	(1) Pioneer Oil Mills	8
	(2) Calaro	19
	(3) Kwa Falls Estate..	21
	(4) Oil Palm Plantation, Ikun	23
	(5) Oil Palm Plantation, Uturu	23
	(6) Oil Palm Plantation, Ishiagu	24
	(*b*) Schemes Designed to Introduce New Cash Crops.	
	(1) Cashew Nut Industry	24
	(2) Coffee Plantation, Santa..	29
	(3) Coconut Plantation, Bonny	30
	(4) Rubber Plantation, Oban	30
	(*c*) Schemes Designed to Increase the Quantity and Improve the Quality of Foodstuffs.	
	(1) Obudu Cattle Ranch	32
	(2) Fertiliser Scheme	39
	(3) Concentrates for Livestock	45
	(4) Rice Mills	46
	(*d*) Miscellaneous Projects.	
	(1) Central Offices at Enugu	48
	(2) Senior Staff Flats at Enugu	48
	(3) Marketing Publicity	49
	(4) Cocoa Improvement Schemes	49
	(5) Boat Building Industry, Opobo	50
	(6) Onitsha Market Reconstruction	52
	(7) Calabar-Arochuku Road	54
	(8) Obudu-Plateau Road	55
	(9) Grants for Road Construction	58
VIII.	Finance	58
IX.	Conclusion	61

Third Annual Report of the Eastern Regional Production Development Board 1951-52

I.—INTRODUCTION

THIS Report, which covers the period from the 1st of April, 1951, to the 31st of March, 1952, has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of section 28 of Ordinance No. 27 of 1951 (Regional Production Development Boards Ordinance) which reads :—

(1) "A Regional Production Development Board shall, in respect of each year ending the 31st day of March, submit to the Chief Commissioner concerned a report containing—

(*a*) an account of its transactions throughout the year in such detail as the Chief Commissioner concerned may direct ; and

(*b*) a statement of the accounts of the Board duly audited in accordance with the provisions of section 26.

(2) A copy of the report together with a copy of the report of the auditor shall be printed and laid on the table of the appropriate House of Assembly and, in the case of the Northern Regional Production Development Board, on the table of the House of Chiefs also."

Experience has shown that in order to comply with the requirements of the section which is quoted above, whereby an audited statement of the Board's accounts should be submitted to the Lieutenant-Governor and laid on the table of the Regional House of Assembly, considerable delay occurs between the end of the period of review (namely the 31st of March in any year) and the publication of the Report. Thus the Annual Report for the period ending on the 31st of March, 1951, was ready for publication during May, 1951 ; but as the accounts were not audited until towards the end of the year it has not been possible to publish that Report at the time of preparing this Annual Report for the following year. It is clearly most desirable to supply up to date information regarding the Board's activities, and it has therefore been decided, with the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor, to publish the Report in two parts : Part I will cover the requirements of section 28 (*i*) (*a*) of Ordinance No. 27 of 1951, and will contain an account of the Board's activities and transactions throughout the year : Part II will meet the requirements of section 28 (*i*) (*b*) of the Ordinance and will contain the audited statement of the accounts and such statistics as may be of general interest. It is hoped to publish Part I as soon as possible after the 31st of March, 1952 : Part II will be published when the approved Auditors have completed their work and the audited accounts have been passed by the Board. In order to satisfy the statutory requirements the two Parts will be bound together in due course and formally submitted to the Lieutenant-Governor and laid on the table of the Eastern Regional House of Assembly.

II.—ARRANGEMENT OF REPORT

This Report has been divided into sixteen main sections, nine of which appear in Part I, under the following headings :—

1. Introduction.
2. Arrangement of Report.
3. Legislation.
4. Membership of the Board.
5. Meetings of the Board.
6. Policy.
7. Projects approved by the Board :—
   (*a*) Schemes designed to improve the quality and increase the quantity of oil palm products.
   (*b*) Schemes to introduce new cash crops.
   (*c*) Schemes to increase the quantity and improve the quality of foodstuffs.
   (*d*) Miscellaneous projects.
8. Finance.
9. Conclusion.

Seven main sections will appear in due course in Part II under the following headings :—

10. General.
11. Allocations from the Marketing Boards.
12. Investments.
13. Board's accounts.
14. Auditor's report.
15. Balance sheet.
16. Appendices.

III.—LEGISLATION

The Ordinance under which the Board now operates came into effect on the 13th of December, 1951, and replaced and repealed those sections of Ordinances Nos. 11 and 12 of 1949 (The Nigeria Groundnut Marketing Ordinance and the Nigeria Oil Palm Produce Marketing Ordinance) under which the Boards had hitherto functioned. The necessity for new legislation was occasioned by the desirability of consolidating into one Ordinance the provisions relating to the functions and operations of the Eastern, Northern and Western Regional Production Development Boards, and the decision that the Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board, which had hitherto arranged and financed its own development schemes, should transfer its development powers to the Regional Production Development Boards. At the same time the opportunity was taken to insert declaratory sections for the purpose of settling questions which had arisen in practice as to certain powers possessed

by the Boards, to widen the variety and methods whereby the Boards might apply funds at their disposal to the purpose of the Ordinance, to widen the Boards' powers of investment, and to effect certain procedural and consequential reforms either necessitated by the above considerations or found to be required as a result of past experience of the working of Ordinances Nos. 11 and 12 of 1949.

Accordingly a Bill for an "Ordinance to provide for the reconstitution of the Northern, Eastern and Western Regional Production Development Boards, for the functions of those Boards, and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid" was published in *Nigeria Gazette* No. 24 of the 10th of May, 1951. The Bill received the unanimous approval of the Eastern House of Assembly on the 19th of July, 1951, and was enacted by the Legislative Council on the 25th of August, 1951, as Ordinance No. 27 of 1951.

IV.—MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD

Section 39 of the Nigeria Oil Palm Produce Marketing Ordinance (No. 12 of 1949) prescribed the constitution of the Eastern Regional Production Development Board : it reads :—

"39. The Eastern Regional Production Development Board shall consist of not less than eight nor more than twelve members of whom—

(*a*) one shall be Chairman and shall be appointed by the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces, by name or office ;

(*b*) one shall be an official member of the Eastern House of Assembly appointed by the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces, by name or office ;

(*c*) not less than four nor more than eight shall be unofficial members of the Eastern House of Assembly, appointed by the said House, and

(*d*) two shall be appointed by the Representative Committee from among such of its members as are appointed to it from the Eastern Region in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (*d*) and (*e*) of section 30."

To cover the period during 1949 before formal appointments could be made to the Board in accordance with the section quoted above, a "Shadow" Eastern Regional Production Development Board was set up composed of the following members :—

The Secretary (Finance and Development), Eastern Provinces, *Chairman.*
Mr M. Park, Deputy Director of Agriculture.
The Rev. O. Efiong, O.B.E.
Galega, Fon of Bali.
Mr L. N. Mbanefo.
Mr P. E. Chukwurah.
Mr D. N. Achara.
Mr A. Prince Abbi.

Mr C. de N. Hill, Assistant Secretary (Development), acted as the "Shadow" Board's Secretary. The "Shadow" Board met once, on the 23rd of June, 1949, when Standing Orders were drafted, Bankers appointed and other routine matters considered. Decisions taken by the "Shadow" Board were subsequently ratified by the Board proper.

Early in July, 1949, the following formal appointments were made to the Board :—

(*a*) The Regional Development Secretary, *Chairman.*
(*b*) The Regional Deputy Director of Agriculture.
(*c*) The Rev. O. Efiong, O.B.E.
Galega, Fon of Bali
Mr P. E. Chukwurah
Mr D. N. Achara
Mr G. H. H. O'Dwyer
Mr W. Ubani
} Appointed by the Eastern House of Assembly.
(*d*) Mr L. N. Mbanefo
Mr A. Prince Abbi (Oribo)
} Appointed by the Nigeria Oil Palm Produce Representative Committee.

Ordinance No. 27 of 1951 which, as already stated, came into effect on the 13th of December, 1951, widens the membership of the Board by permitting the inclusion of a representative of the Advisory Committee, a body subsidiary to the Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board, and slightly varies the method of appointment of some other members to the Board. The relevant section of the Ordinance, which replaces that quoted above, now reads :—

"The Eastern Regional Production Development Board shall consist of not less than eight nor more than thirteen members of whom :—

(*a*) one shall be Chairman and shall be appointed by the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces, by name or office ;

(*b*) one shall be an official appointed by the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces, by name or office ;

(*c*) not less than four nor more than eight shall be appointed by the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces, of whom at least half shall be unofficial members of the Eastern House of Assembly ;

(*d*) two shall be appointed by the Representative Committee established under section 30 of the Nigeria Oil Palm Produce Marketing Ordinance, 1949, from among such of its members as are appointed to it from the Eastern Region in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (*d*) and (*e*) of section 30 of the said Ordinance ; and

(*e*) one may be appointed by the Advisory Committee from among such of its members as are normally resident in the Eastern Region.

In order that outstanding matters might be completed and that the Board, reconstituted under the provisions of Ordinance No. 27 of 1951, should start to function at a convenient date, the Lieutenant-Governor decided to make the appointments under sub-section (*c*) of the preceding paragraph

effective as from the 1st of April, 1952, and consequently the Board appointed under Ordinance No. 12 of 1949, has continued to function, as it is empowered to do by section 32 of Ordinance No. 27 of 1951, until the 31st of March, 1952. During the period covered by this Annual Report the Board, therefore, has been :—

Chairman

The Honourable H. F. P. Wetherell, M.B.E., Development Secretary, Eastern Region.

Members

Mr M. Park, Director of Agriculture, Eastern Region.
The Rev. O. Efiong, O.B.E.
Galega, the Fon of Bali.
Mr P. E. Chukwurah.
Mr D. N. Achara.
Mr G. H. H. O'Dwyer, O.B.E.*
The Honourable M. W. Ubani.
The Honourable L. N. Mbanefo, Barrister-at-Law.
Mr Prince A. Abbi.

V.—MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

During the year under review the Board has held the following meetings :—

7th of June, 1951.
25th of July, 1951.
19th of November, 1951.
3rd of January, 1952.
15th of March, 1952.

All meetings were held in Enugu.

VI.—POLICY

In Sessional Paper No. 18 of 1948 (Statement of the Policy proposed for the future Marketing of Nigerian Oils, Oil Seeds and Cotton) the function of Regional Production Development Boards was laid down as being "to dispose of funds made available by the Palm Produce Marketing Board for the Development of the palm produce industry and for the benefit and prosperity of the producers and the areas of production.

The Statement continued :—

"(*i*) Regional Boards are proposed in harmony with the present constitutional arrangements and to ensure that within the limits laid down by the legislation each Region will have freedom to dispose its funds according to its own judgment of the needs of the Region. It is clear, however, that some schemes, particularly those directly affecting palm produce production, will be of interest to both Regions and it is intended and hoped that there will be a free interchange of information and proposals for the mutual benefit of the Boards and the Regions.

*Died in the United Kingdom on the 11th of August, 1951.

(*ii*) It is not intended that the Boards should spend money on purposes of general welfare, such as the provision of dispensaries, schools, hospitals, etc. The cost of the expansion of Government and Native Administration services of that kind is a proper charge on the revenues of the Government and the Native Administrations. On the other hand if the Boards are restricted by the legislation to spending the funds available to them solely on the development of the palm produce industry they might be unduly hampered. Perhaps the best indication of the kind of object on which funds might properly be expended is conveyed by the phrase "for the development of the industry and the benefit and prosperity of the producers and the areas of production". In the opinion of the Government, as long as the objects of expenditure are economic and are designed to promote economic well-being and development in the main belts of production, it would be imprudent to restrict unduly the latitude of the Boards.

(*iii*) It is proper to mention that improvement in quality must be a major issue for these Boards since it is doubtful whether with the resumption of production in the East Indies, Nigerian palm oil can maintain its position in the world's markets unless there is an improvement in methods of production and extraction and quality."

When moving the first reading of the 1948-49 Appropriation Bill, the Financial Secretary (Mr A. W. L. Savage, C.M.G.) made the following important statement regarding the funds of the Regional Production Development Boards :—

> "I do want at this stage, Sir, to point out that funds of Boards of this type are trust funds subject only to the direction of the Board. It follows that Government has no claim on the accumulated funds, which cannot be raided by the present Financial Secretary or by his successors. I say this explicitly in order to remove any doubts on this point . . ."

The statutory obligation of the Board, which is now prescribed in section 17 of Ordinance No. 27 of 1951, and which reiterates the broad principles quoted above, is to expend the funds at its disposal for the development of the Oil Palm Produce Industry and for the economic benefit and prosperity of the producers and the areas of production. In considering how best to fulfil this statutory obligation, the Board since its inception has considered that it would be unrealistic and impossible to attempt to set in isolation the palm produce areas of the Eastern Region from those parts of the Region primarily concerned with the production of food crops, as the latter are both complementary and vital to the main oil palm areas whose populations, for the most part, have to import their food. In addition, areas of oil palm are spread in varying degrees of density throughout the Region. For these reasons the Board decided that it was fully justified in regarding the whole of the Eastern Region as a producing area within the meaning of the Ordinance and in planning the expenditure of the funds at its disposal accordingly.

The dominant position held by the Palm Produce Industry in the economic framework of the Region, and the close relationship between the prices of oil palm products and the standard of living of everyone in the Region, are accepted facts. The Board considered that the dangers of the Region's economy being almost solely reliant on one industry were obvious, and further considered that provision for the development of new agricultural industries giving alternative sources of wealth would be of direct benefit to the areas of oil palm production and to the oil palm producers. The Board has decided, therefore, that, while its principal policy must be to improve the quantity and quality of palm products, one of the main aims should be to use all means in its power to plan a more balanced economy by introducing wherever possible alternative and new cash crops.

An urgent necessity for the people of the Eastern Region, where there is a growing population, a rising standard of living and an increasing concentration in the palm belt on producing cash crops to the exclusion of all else, is to produce more food. This can only be achieved by bringing new areas of land into cultivation, by improved methods of land use and by the careful employment of artificial manures. The Board decided, therefore, that it would be of direct benefit to the producers if part of the funds at its disposal were used to increase food production.

Having adopted the policy outlined in the preceding three paragraphs the Board decided that it could best use its resources in accordance with the following broad principles :—

(*i*) to undertake, either directly or through agencies, large scale schemes of production, using wherever possible plantation methods, for the following purposes :—

(*a*) The improvement in quality and increase in quantity of oil palm products.

(*b*) The introduction of new cash crops (such as cashew, cocoa and coffee).

(*c*) The increase of quantity and improvement in quality of foodstuffs.

(*ii*) to provide, wherever possible, adequate social services for employees on the Board's projects, and to try to act as model employers ;

(*iii*) to concentrate on schemes which are economically sound and which are planned and managed on commercial lines.

In furtherance of its policy to introduce new crops wherever possible, it is the Board's intention to establish a number of small plantations as widely scattered as possible, and at the same time to encourage the surrounding villages to plant the same crops with selected seed from the Board's plantations. Each plantation will contain the best processing machinery available and it is hoped that the surrounding villages would sell their crops to the Board for processing. In this way the best available seed would be

distributed to villages, and processing machinery would be brought as near as possible to them so that only the highest grade of the processed crop would be available for sale either for internal consumption or for export.

During the year a large number of applications were received from various bodies for assistance in road construction or road maintenance, or both, and it became necessary for the Board to consider and formulate its policy in this matter. Accordingly, and after lengthy consideration, the Board decided :—

(*i*) To construct roads to the Board's projects.

(*ii*) To construct roads into undeveloped areas where in the view of the Board there were possibilities of agricultural, industrial or other economic development.

(*iii*) To construct roads and/or bridges where in the view of the Board those roads or bridges would be of direct benefit to the industry or to the producer.

(*iv*) To maintain only those roads which served the limited purpose of access to the Board's estates or other projects.

VII.—PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Details of the schemes which follow, approved by the Board since its inception, were considered and planned in the light of the policy and principles detailed in section VI above.

(*A*) *Schemes designed to improve the quality and increase the quantity of Oil Palm products*

(I) Pioneer Oil Mills

Reference should be made to the Board's First and Second Annual Reports which describe in some detail the history and development of the Pioneer Oil Mill Scheme and which it is not proposed to repeat here. During the year under review opposition to the establishment of mills in the Calabar Province continued, though there were signs towards the end of the year of the beginnings of a change in opinion in some areas, and there is no doubt that a number of villages would welcome the establishment of a mill in their midst, but fear victimisation by surrounding villages. It is most earnestly hoped that, realising the benefits the mills can bring to the industry, all opposition will have disappeared by the time that the additional fifty mills, ordered by the Board early in 1951, start to arrive.

In contrast to the attitude of women in parts of the Calabar Province, the Resident, Owerri Province (Mr J. S. Smith), reports that in an area of the Owerri Province where the women of two neighbouring villages had united to resist any idea of the erection of a mill in their vicinity, eight months later the active intervention of the District Officer was required to prevent the women of the same two villages coming to blows for the honour of obtaining a mill in each of their individual villages when only one was available for both.

In his Address to the Eastern House of Assembly on the 12th of February, 1952, the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir James Pyke-Nott, KT., C.M.G., R.N. (retd.), dealt in the following terms with the aims and objects of the Pioneer Oil Mill Scheme :—

"I wish to refer to the Pioneer Oil Mill Scheme. Details of the scheme can be found in the Board's Annual Reports and it is to the objects of the scheme, rather than to the present achievements, that I wish particularly to refer now, though the construction and bringing into production of an additional thirty-two mills during 1951, is in itself no small achievement. To appreciate the objects of the Pioneer Oil Mill Scheme we must go to the Ordinance under which the Eastern Regional Production Development Board functions. That Ordinance charges the Board to expend the funds at its disposal for the development of the Oil Palm Produce Industry, and for the benefit and prosperity of the producers and the areas of production. In interpreting this charge the Board decided to regard the whole of the Eastern Region as the area of production and to set itself a threefold task, namely :—

(*i*) To improve the quality and quantity of oil palm products.

(*ii*) To introduce new cash crops.

(*iii*) To increase the quantity of foodstuffs.

The Santa Coffee Estate, the Cashew Nut Scheme and the Coconut Plantation at Bonny are examples of the Board's efforts to introduce new cash crops, while the Fertiliser Scheme, the Obudu Cattle Ranch and the Concentrates for Livestock are designed to increase the quantity of foodstuffs. But the most difficult and costly task before the Board is to try and improve the quality and quantity of oil palm products. The ideal would be to substitute village plantations, containing the best available oil palm stock, for the existing wild palm bush, and this is an ideal towards which we must work if our products are to be of the very highest quality which a world market of falling prices will demand. The Pioneer Oil Mill, however, was designed to meet the present difficulties of the existing system whereby wild palm bush is spread over large thickly populated areas and owned by hundreds of thousands of intensely individualistic farmers. The purpose of the Pioneer Oil Mill is, purely and simply, to provide the means whereby the quality of oil palm products can be improved so that they will command respect in world markets and obtain ready sale.

There has been a great deal of misinterpretation of the Board's intentions regarding the Pioneer Oil Mill Scheme and, I regret to say, in some cases, wilful misrepresentation. The Board has no ulterior motives whatever and, I repeat, its object is to improve the quality of our oil palm products on which, at the present time, the economy of the Region is so entirely dependent. The Board has decided that, for some very considerable time, it must retain control of the mills it has itself erected in order that no personal interests shall hinder its task of improving the quality of oil produced. This does not mean that private individuals or groups of



Wild Palm Bush.

Wild Palm Bush.



A Local Nursery.

individuals cannot erect mills : if they have the cash anybody can open a mill. But the Board's primary concern is the welfare of the industry as a whole and by owning a number of mills it can ensure the welfare of the industry as a whole. If in due course net profits are made by the Board's mills (and I understand that at present most of them are running at a loss), the Board has declared its intentions of ploughing back a large proportion of those net profits into the area which a mill serves, and as a token of its goodwill the Board has, in fact, declared an interim profit in respect of one of its mills where the local people stood firm and resisted the efforts of their neighbours to close it down.

I understand that whether a mill shows a profit or a loss is almost entirely dependent on the amount of fruit that it buys for processing. In view of the Board's declaration regarding profits it behoves the people of an area where a mill is situated to see that it is fed with sufficient fruit to show a profit. In other words the local people must associate themselves with a mill for their own benefit and for the benefit of the industry as a whole, and in order to foster that close association the Board has decided to set up a number of Advisory Committees, composed of representatives of the local people and representative of the management, so that common problems can be discussed and, if profits are made, the Board can be advised how those profits can best be used to further local interests."

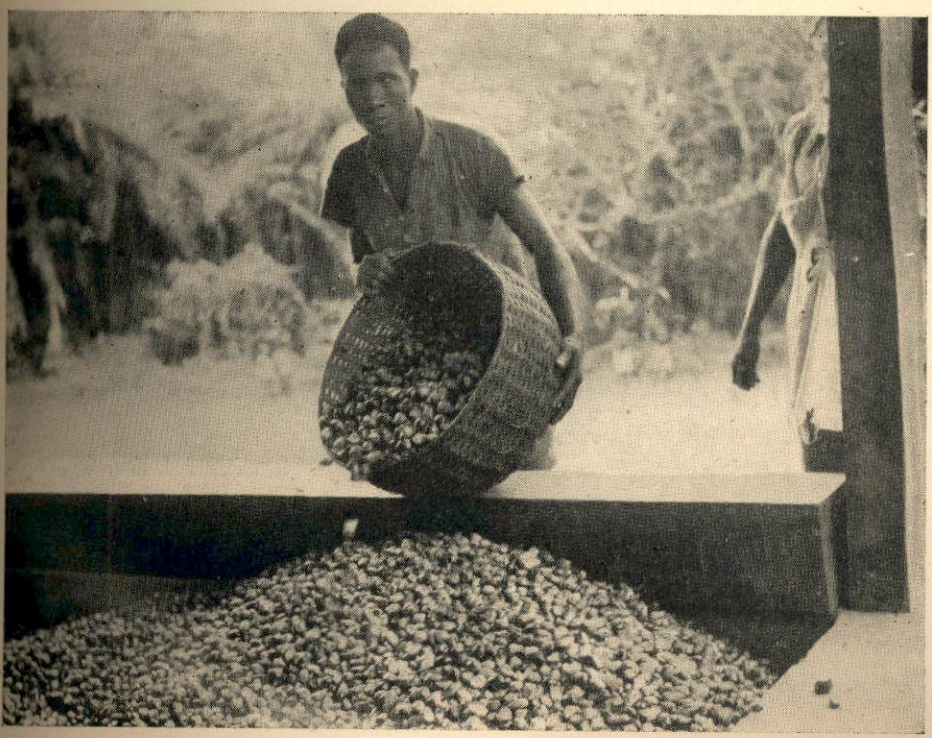
Since its inception, with funds made available by the Nigeria Local Development Board, the Pioneer Oil Mill Scheme had been managed by the Department of Commerce and Industries, and when the Eastern Regional Production Development Board bought out the interest of the Nigeria Local Development Board in 1949 the Department of Commerce and Industries continued to manage the scheme as the Board's agents. It became increasingly apparent, however, that, despite the enthusiasm and energy brought to the work by the members of the staff of the Department of Commerce and Industries, the Board should assume direct responsibility for the management of the scheme and accordingly, on the 1st of October, 1951, the agency was terminated. The Board is indebted to the Director of the Department of Commerce and Industries (Mr H. B. Cox) for his assistance in making the change-over smooth, and will always remember with gratitude the work of the late Mr G. Taylor in the early days of the scheme.

The General Manager (Mr P. M. Sellars) has the following to report on report on the work of the mills during the year under review :—

"Although this report covers the period 1st of April, 1951, to the 31st of March, 1952, it is considered essential, in order that a true picture of our expansion programme can be given, to go back to the 1st of September, 1950, when a contract to build forty Pioneer Oil Mills was signed. Through careful planning, the position on that date was that we had one mill in each of the following divisions : Okigwi, Orlu, Owerri, Aba, Ikot Ekpene, Ahoada,

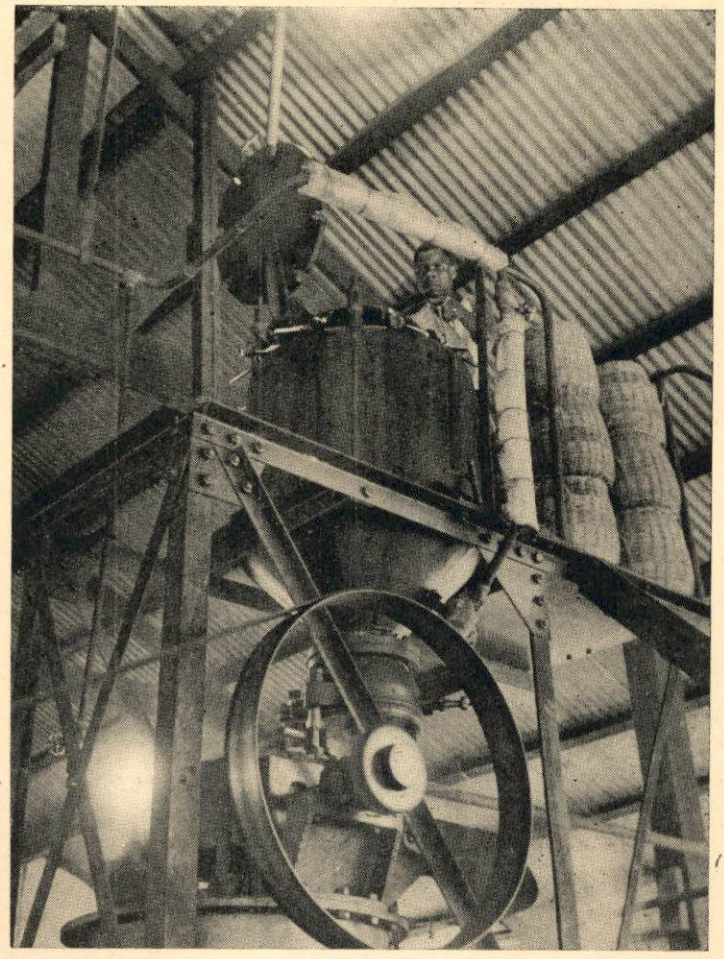


A Newly erected Pioneer Oil Mill.



Buying Palm fruit at a Mill.

Calabar, Opobo and Onitsha. This meant that we had proved to our satisfaction that Pioneer Oil Mills could operate successfully in each of those divisions without upsetting the Palm Oil economy of the division. It also meant that (*a*) further lessors of sites for mills knew, from personal inspection, exactly what they were leasing their land for, and that the local people, who were to support future mills, knew our methods of production and (*b*) that we had in each division a mill in which to train the staff to be employed in future mills to be built in that division.



Fruit being emptied into the Autoclave.

In order that groups of mills could be built up round existing mills, four construction teams commenced building in September, 1950; (*i*) Aba, Ikot Ekpene group; (*ii*) Owerri, Onitsha group; (*iii*) Orlu, Okigwi group and (*iv*) Ahoada group and by the 1st of April, 1951, the position was as follows :—

MILLS IN PRODUCTION

Aba	*Ahoada*	*Ikot Ekpene*	*Owerri*	*Orlu*	
2	1	3	1	2	
Okigwi	*Onitsha*	*Eket*	*Calabar*	*Opobo*	
3	2	1	1	2	=18

PRODUCTION STAFF EMPLOYED

Senior Staff	*Junior Staff*	*Daily paid Staff*
10	70	276

CONSTRUCTION STAFF EMPLOYED

Contract Staff	*Junior Staff*	*Daily paid Staff*
9	21	561

By the 31st of March, 1952, all but three of the forty mills were completed and the position was as follows :—

MILLS IN PRODUCTION

Aba	*Ahoada*	*Ikot Ekpene*	*Owerri*	*Orlu*	*Okigwi*	
8	7	3	4	9	6	
	Onitsha	*Eket*	*Calabar*	*Opobo*		
	4	1	2	2		=46

PRODUCTION STAFF EMPLOYED

Senior Staff	*Junior Staff*	*Daily paid Staff*
16	210	1,084

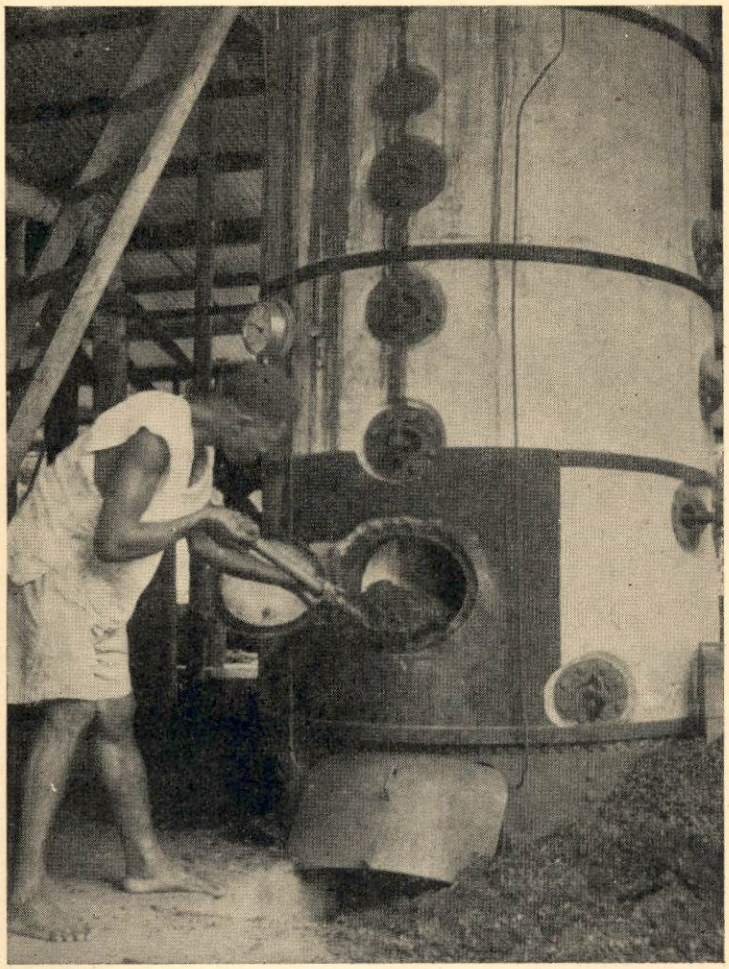
CONSTRUCTION STAFF EMPLOYED

Contract Staff	*Junior Staff*	*Daily paid Staff*
4	11	140

Whenever possible when members of the construction staff became redundant they were transferred to our Production Staff and employed in the mills they built. With so many mills coming into production in such a short time we had great difficulty in finding suitable men, with mechanical knowledge, to fill the vacancies for Mill Mechanics and Maintenance Mechanics, and in many cases completely inexperienced personnel had to be trained and it was necessary to select proposed mechanics some six months before they would be required in order to train them. Fortunately no such difficulty was encountered in recruiting clerks, two of whom are required in each mill. In many cases the selection had to be made from as many as fifteen or twenty applicants for each mill.

The processing in a Pioneer Oil Mill is not done entirely by machinery : machinery is only used where, by so using it, the quality of the oil and the efficiency of extraction is improved. Whenever possible, the separation of nuts from fibre and kernels from the cracked mixture is done by hand thus giving employment to approximately forty people. It was found, however, that in certain areas it was not possible to recruit labour for these works and additional machinery had to be installed in a number of mills. Power

driven nut-fibre separators and hand operated, brine bath, kernel separators were installed, and have been giving satisfactory results. However, it is not our policy to instal these additional machines in mills where ample labour is available as, especially in the case of kernel separating, the brine bath separation is no more efficient or economical than hand separation.



Firing the boiler with Kernel Shell.

Since the introduction by the Nigeria Oil Palm Produce Marketing Board of Special Grade Oil every effort has been made to increase our production of this Grade ; but it must be pointed out that, even a Pioneer Oil Mill, although it can produce a higher Grade Oil from a certain quality fruit than the native or hand press method, it cannot produce Special Grade Oil from overripe bruised fruits. In certain areas, particularly in Ahoada and Opobo where the method of cutting and transporting fruit is detrimental to the quality of the fruit purchased, it has not been possible for our mills to

produce any Special Grade Oil, while in other areas, where more regular cutting is done and quicker methods of transporting the fruit to the mill is possible, our mills are producing 100 per cent Special Palm Oil.

OIL AND KERNELS PRODUCED

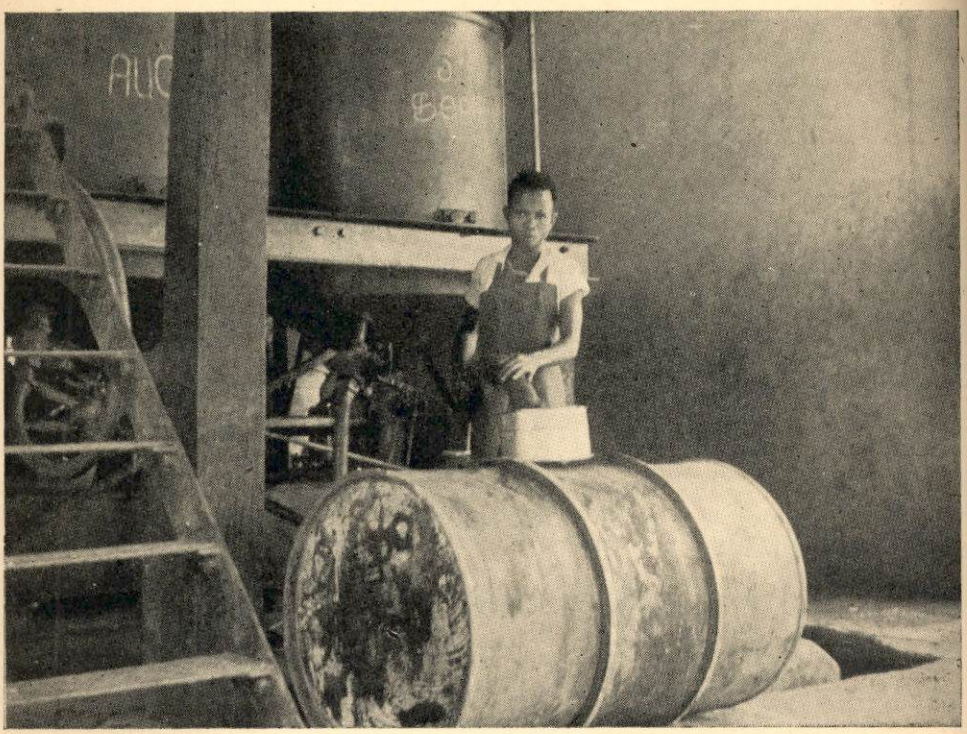
Year Ending 31*st March*, 1951		*Year Ending* 31*st March*, 1952	
	Tons		*Tons*
Fruit milled ..	7,570.12	Fruit milled ..	14,294.13
Special Palm Oil ..	285.29	Special Palm Oil ..	590.7
Total Oil produced ..	1,263.43	Total Oil produced	2,089.8
Kernels	382.5	Kernels	872.5

To enable efficient and economic management and maintenance to be carried out in the groups of mills it has been necessary to extend our headquarters in Aba considerably. One more wing had to be added to our office building and two more stores provided, two prefabricated mill buildings being used for latter buildings, and in order to deal with the greatly increased demand for petrol, oils and lubricants, an underground petrol tank with pump has been installed and an additional petrol, oil and lubricant store and office built. Work is now in progress building a Mechanical Workshop where repairs, both to the mill machinery and to transport, can be carried out. All necessary equipment has been ordered and is now arriving in Nigeria and it is hoped to have the workshop completed early in the next financial year. Here again we are experiencing great difficulty in getting trained workers, welders, fitters, etc., despite advertisements being published in all popular papers, and it is becoming more and more apparent that we shall have to train our own staff before the workshop can become a useful unit in the scheme.

In order to cut down unnecessary travelling and to have our Supervising Staff living near their groups of mills, sub-offices and accommodation have been built in the following locations : two houses and one sub-office at Ikot Ekpene to cover the Ikot Ekpene, Eket and Opobo mills : one house in Calabar to cover both management and construction of mills on the far side of the Oron Ferry : two houses and one sub-office at Orlu to cover the Orlu Okigwi mills and the same at Owerri to cover the Owerri-Onitsha mills. With the exception of the Calabar group, where one Senior Staff Officer is at present responsible for management and construction, each group is staffed by two Senior Staff Officers for management, maintenance and construction of further mills.

When the five mills, now under construction in Onitsha, are finished, the present building programme will be completed and our efforts will be directed in consolidating the mills under production until the fifty mills now on order arrive in Nigeria.

In reviewing the financial aspect of the scheme one is confined to the latest accounts issued which are those for the half-year ended 30th September, 1951, and to those now in the final stages of completion, namely, to the 31st December, 1951. During this period there has naturally been a considerable increase in the amount of capital invested by the Board in the scheme. To the 31st December, 1951, there had been allocations amounting to £357,000 and a further sum of £40,000 had been advanced during the months of January to March, 1952. Thus the total sum now sunk in this phase of the Board's activities, including constructional costs, is £655,321 9s 0d.



Drumming Palm Oil for export.

As will have been seen previously in this report, the expansion programme has been extremely rapid and it is understandable that during the period to the 30th of September, 1951, the scheme as a whole has shown a loss after provision has been made for debts due to the Colonial Government and replacement of wasting assets. But it is a good sign that at least three mills did manage to show a profit for the half-year after all production expenses and proportionate shares of overhead expenditure had been taken into account.

Many of the new mills came into operation during a period when supplies of fruit were insufficient to permit of full production and this is the main reason why, for the half-year to the 30th of September, 1951, the scheme

operated at a loss. Mill personnel once engaged are not laid-off during slack periods thus pushing up mill operational costs. But looking at this point from the opposite angle it will be seen that the scheme is doing much to assist local economics.

From figures so far ascertained for the period 1st of October, 1951, to the 31st of December, 1951, it is noticeable that the fruit intake of practically all the new mills has steadily increased month by month. There has also been a reduction in costs due to certain initial expenditure incurred by these mills having been charged during the previous accounting period.

Another pleasing feature about the second half-year is the noticeable increase in production of one or two of the older mills, particularly Akpabuyo (Calabar) and Umuchima (Orlu) as compared with the same period in 1950-51. From this it would seem that the scheme is gaining in popularity over the whole area although, perhaps, it is a little early yet to state categorically that such is the case. No doubt further accounts will show seasonal fluctuations of profits made and losses sustained, but comparing the scheme as it is at present with its embryo stages of 1947-48 the accounts prove that the high hopes held out for it are slowly beginning to materialise."

It is not generally known that the steps which led to the designing, building and testing of the prototypes of the Pioneer Oil Mill were undertaken by the Engineering Department of the United Africa Company, Limited, who, under the initiative of Mr A. A. Cowan, a director of that Company, studied the problem of evolving a small power unit of a size to meet purely local demands and of a design planned to resist crude methods of maintenance. The instructions to the Company's Engineering Department were that the cost should be within the financial possibilities of village industry, and that the rate of inflow of stripped fruit should approximate to an area contained within a radius of some seven miles from the mill.

So convinced was the Company of the suitability of the mill as eventually designed to Nigerian conditions in the wild palm belt, that it offered the first Pioneer Oil Mill as an outright gift to the Nigerian Government. Further details of the United Africa Company, Limited's early concern with the problem are recorded in the *Statistical and Economic Review* of the 7th of March, 1951.

(2) Calaro Oil Palm Estate

In furtherance of its decision to establish plantations wherever possible in underpopulated areas the Board planned to start an oil palm plantation of some 10,000 acres in the Calabar Division in an area (to be selected as the result of expert investigation) between the Calabar and Kwa Rivers, and set aside the sum of £300,000, being half the estimated cost of the project, for the purpose. Following discussions between the Board and the Senior Director of the Colonial Development Corporation (West Africa), Limited, it was decided to invite the Corporation to participate in the scheme as joint partners on terms to be arranged as the result of subsequent discussions. It was further decided to invite the Corporation to manage the scheme.

Accordingly, and on the 25th of January, 1950, the Board formally invited the Colonial Development Corporation, through the Senior Director, Colonial Development Corporation (West Africa), Limited, to participate in this project ; but it was not until fourteen months later that an investigating mission of the Corporation, composed of Mr J. W. E. Lomax and Mr F. R. Skermer arrived in Nigeria on the 20th of March, 1951, to study the area of the proposed estate and subsequently to put up detailed proposals to the Corporation. The members of the investigating mission, accompanied by the Acting Deputy Director of Agriculture (Mr A. F. W. Sheffield) and the Chairman and the Secretary of the Board, trekked the area of the Calabar Division between the Calabar and Kwa Rivers and satisfied themselves that the area proposed was eminently suitable for an oil palm plantation.

Meanwhile, the Board had informed the Corporation that it was prepared to negotiate with the following terms as the basis for agreement :—

(*i*) the Board to take a Lease of the land, when selected, from the owners ;

(*ii*) a Company to be formed by the Board and the Colonial Development Corporation jointly, the object of which would be to operate the scheme on the land ;

(*iii*) the Board to sub-lease the land to the Company ;

(*iv*) the Colonial Development Corporation to take up 51 per cent of the shares in the Company and the Board to take 49 per cent of the shares ;

(*v*) the Directorate of the Company to consist of six Directors, three to be appointed by the Colonial Development Corporation, and three by the Board, the Chairman to be a Colonial Development Corporation nominee and to have a casting vote.

There the matter rested until August, 1951, when a number of meetings were held in London with officials of the Colonial Development Corporation by Mr Wetherell, Mr Park (Deputy Director of Agriculture), Mr L. N. Mbanefo and Mr Whittington. The proposals of Messrs Lomax and Skermer, which included capital requirements in excess of £2 millions, had been rejected by the Board Commercial Committee of the Colonial Development Corporation and it was hoped, at the meetings, to devise proposals which would be satisfactory to both parties. In the event that the proposals acceptable to the Colonial Development Corporation (a pilot scheme of 1,000 acres : a request that the Board should include in the Scheme all its "oil palm interests in that part of Nigeria" : the suggestion that one of two named parties, both unacceptable to the Board, should be invited to participate as a third interest in the scheme) could not be considered by the Board's representatives and after a meeting of the Board's Commercial Committee attended by Messrs Wetherell, Park and Whittington it became clear that there was little likelihood of agreement being reached. It was decided, therefore, to terminate the negotiations with the Colonial Development Corporation and to look elsewhere for a more suitable partner in the scheme.

Accordingly, a well known firm with extensive plantation interests was invited to participate in the project on terms similar to those which had been under discussion with the Colonial Development Corporation, and that firm intimated that, subject to investigation by one of their experts with a view to getting out more realistic estimates, they would in all probability welcome the opportunity of investing in and managing the proposed plantation. Early in December, 1951, and owing to the personal intervention of the Senior Director of the Colonial Development Corporation (West Africa), Limited, Mr G. Mercer, it was decided to offer one further opportunity to the Colonial Development Corporation to participate in the project ; it was made quite clear, however, that the Board was not prepared to vary the terms of that offer or to consider any further delay : a delay which had already resulted in two planting seasons being lost with the consequent loss of revenues to the Board. On the 31st of December, 1951, the Colonial Development Corporation intimated that the terms offered were acceptable, and on the 10th of January the Chairman went to London to represent the Board's interests at a meeting of the three principals. As the result of that meeting it was decided to form a syndicate immediately with the object of finalising plans for the formation of a Company registered in Nigeria to develop a plantation of some ten thousand acres of mixed rubber and oil palms.

Meanwhile when the investigating mission of the Colonial Development Corporation, mentioned above, completed its work at the end of April, 1951, Mr J. W. E. Lomax remained in the area to the north of Calabar to select and define an area of some 12,500 acres suitable for the project. After an extensive study of the land he decided that the most suitable, having regard to all the circumstances, was an area on the edge of the Oban Forest Reserve where the poorness of the timber made its retention as reserved forest neither necessary nor desirable. In view of the statement prepared by the Nigerian Forest Authority for the British Commonwealth Forestry Conference which, *inter alia*, lays down that "agriculture must take priority over forestry" and as the present proposal is to substitute a highly economic tree plantation (whereby "the climatic and physical condition of the country will be preserved by the control, by maintenance or rehabilitation of vegetation, of the rain-water-run-off") for a forest area which, in the words of the Annual Report on the Forest Administration of Nigeria for the Year 1948-49, "is so poor in valuable export timbers", it was decided to ask the Governor to dereserve the 12,500 acres required for the plantation, and the result of that application is still awaited.

At the time of writing it is hoped that the firm's experts will shortly visit Nigeria and then, subject to His Excellency being pleased to dereserve the area required, it is hoped to make a start on this most important project.

(3) Kwa Falls Estate

This oil palm plantation, situated some thirty-four miles to the north of Calabar on the Calabar-Mamfe road, was bought by the Board from the Calabar-Mamfe Road Planning Authority in November, 1950. The estate

comprises approximately 3,000 acres of which 650 acres consist of an area called the Massagha Swamp, on which the Agricultural Department is conducting experiments in swamp-rice growing, and of the remaining area of 2,350 acres, approximately 655 acres had been planted up with oil palms before the Board took it over.

Mr F. H. Kinsley-Smith, M.C., was appointed Estate Manager and assumed control of the Kwa Falls Estate on the 4th of June, 1951. The immediate, and most difficult task facing him was to switch over the existing developed area of 655 acres from a resettlement scheme to a normal plantation, and at the same time to develop on plantation lines the remaining 1,695 acres. While work has proceeded smoothly on the latter with the result that 352 acres of land have been cleared and got ready for planting during April, 1952, the task of bringing up to plantation level the area already planted by the Calabar-Mamfe Road Planning Authority is proving most difficult. Wild oil palms and other trees considered of economic value had been left standing and are now being removed; but felling causes considerable damage to young oil palms and the existence of the old trees has caused bad alignment of new plantings in a number of places.

Of the nine months since he assumed charge, Mr Kinsley-Smith has reported :—

> "A new nursery has been established with some 30,000 seedlings from the Agricultural Department, Abak. This should have given, if no losses had occurred in the nursery, enough seedlings to cover 500 acres of new developed area ; of these seedlings only 29,000 survived in the nursery. The reason for these losses was that the seedlings had to be carried a long distance by lorry including two ferry crossings. In addition, two beds were destroyed by rats before a wire fence could be constructed to keep animals out of the nursery. A second nursery has now been established with enough seedlings to plant some 1,000 acres in 1953. This nursery is in excellent condition and good seedlings for the 1953 planting are anticipated.
>
> Underbrushing and felling have proceeded and a large portion of the Estate has now been cleared. Clearing was discontinued in October, 1951, so that land could be prepared for the 1952 planting season. Clearing will, however, be continued in 1952 as we now have only 800 acres of land left to fell and clear. A picked gang of axe-men is also felling all the wild palms which were left by the B.C.C. Scheme in the planted areas. A large number of tall trees were also left when this planting was done.
>
> Some 350 acres of new developed area has been prepared for planting during 1952. A larger size hole has been dug in this area because the soil is not so good as elsewhere. This has entailed extra work which it is intended to complete before any newly developed land is planted. Some 2,000 seedlings have already been planted in the earliest planted areas, 1947 and 1948, but we are now held up until we get more rain.

A temporary office and store have been built of mud and wattle to carry us over until more permanent buildings can be constructed. A Manager's house is under construction and should be finished in May or June, 1952. At the same time a Pioneer Oil Mill is being erected which will help until we are ready for a larger mill as at present we have to use hand presses which are not satisfactory. Arrangements have been made to construct permanent staff houses and labour lines during 1952."

(4) Oil Palm Plantation, Ikun

The Board's second Annual Report recorded :—

"It is realised that in the normal conditions of world trade the palm oil producer can only be sure of marketing at a reasonable price high grade edible oil, and the production of this grade of oil requires plantation methods. The Board considered, therefore, that while large estates in the nature of 10,000 acres provided the ideal method of production, smaller units of some 1,000 acres had much to recommend them. They are of a size for which land could be found in all but the most heavily populated areas of the Region and if groups of from five to ten plantations were established within a radius of some thirty miles the over head costs could be reduced to a minimum. The great advantage of the establishment of such plantations by the Board is that in the course of time they can be copied by villages as part of their community development and existing plantations established by the Board could be bought out by local interests thus enabling the Board to use its capital for development elsewhere. Plantation methods would thus be introduced to replace the present unsatisfactory "palm bush" system.

The Board decided, therefore, to establish in the Afikpo Division of the Ogoja Province the first of a number of such plantations and funds were allocated for this purpose.

The land on which it was intended to establish this plantation has been the subject of a most bitter dispute between the peoples of the Ikun and Okon villages. It was considered impolitic, therefore, to continue with the scheme until such time as the two villages had settled their differences, although both have intimated their willingness to lease the land to the Board. The Ikuns have recently obtained title to the land as the result of a Supreme Court judgment, and as soon as a boundary between the two villages has been demarcated work can start on establishing the plantation."

No progress has been made on this project during the year under review partly because the dispute between the two villages has not yet been resolved, and partly because staff was not available to undertake the necessary investigation on the land. Both difficulties now appear to have been overcome, and it is hoped to make a start on this project during the coming year.

(5) Oil Palm Plantation, Uturu

In furtherance of the decision recorded above, with regard to the proposed Ikun Oil Palm Plantation, to establish a number of small oil palm plantations whereby plantation methods could be introduced to the villages

to replace the present most unsatisfactory "palm bush" system, negotiations were started with the people of Uturu in the Okigwi Division of the Owerri Province to lease an area of some twelve hundred acres. As the result of a survey it was found that the area which the people wished to lease was only four hundred and eighty-three acres, and as attempts to find the additional area have failed it appears that this project must be abandoned.

(6) Oil Palm Plantation, Ishiagu

The people of Ishiagu, in the Afikpo Division of the Ogoja Province, have invited the Board to inspect an area of land which they wish to lease for the establishment of a small oil palm plantation. The land has been inspected and found satisfactory, and subject to a survey proving the area at least 1,200 acres and to satisfactory results being obtained as the result of boring for water, it is intended to substitute a plantation at Ishiagu for that abandonment at Uturu, the areas being in close proximity to one another.

It is a matter for regret that it has not been possible during the year, owing to the difficulty of obtaining land, to establish at least one of the proposed small oil palm plantations. As stated by the Lieutenant-Governor in his Address quoted above, the ideal towards which we must work is to replace the present wild oil palm bush with properly planned and maintained plantations owned by the local people. For the most part the wild oil palm bush contains old and uneconomic trees of poor stock, and owing to intensive farming beneath the trees natural regeneration is not taking place. The time is not far distant when the existing wild palms will become unproductive, and economic disaster will result unless local people can be persuaded to establish village plantations, of which the Board's proposed small plantations would be the perfect model.

A great deal of energy and thought at the present time is being devoted to community development and a spirit of enthusiasm has swept through the Eastern Region. That energy, thought and enthusiasm is, however, largely devoted to social betterment which inevitably results in increased expenditure. In the Board's view it is imperative that some, at least, of this new-found spirit should be devoted to community economic development, for it is clear that unless economic development matches the ever-expanding development of social services the time must come when the Bill for those social services can no longer be met.

(B) Schemes Disigned to Introduce New Cash Crops

(1) Cashew Nut Industry

Cashew trees have been planted in the Eastern Region as an anti-erosion measure since the middle 1920s, and it has been known for some time that they would grow and thrive in the eroded sandy wastes of the Onitsha and Owerri Provinces where the soil has become so inherently infertile that nothing else would grow. The tree, which grows to a height of between

twenty and thirty feet, has a wide spread of dark green broad leaves. The fruit is most distinctive and consists of two separate parts : a large, fleshy, pear-shaped stalk, yellow or red in colour, and a small kidney-shaped nut, grey or green in colour. Little use has been made of the trees or of their produce, although local people have discovered that the yellow, pear-shaped fruit, to which the nut is attached, alleviates thirst when sucked.



Cluster of Cashew fruit.

The shell of the nut contains some 30 per cent of phenol, which at present is worth about £300 per ton, and as far as is at present known this is the only natural source of phenol. The kernel of the nut also has considerable value and is in high demand in the baking and confectionary trades, though its use is more familiar in the United States than in the United Kingdom.

It appeared to the Board that no effort should be spared in the establishment of an industry which would make use of lands which at present have little or no value, and as the result of so doing bring wealth to the owners of

those infertile lands. Accordingly, and owing largely to the efforts of Mr D. H. Rosser (Nigeria Trade Commissioner), an expert visited Enugu during November and December, 1951, who advised that the establishment of the industry was not only possible, but also had tremendous economic possibilities.

The intention, in accordance with approved policy recorded in section VI above, is to establish a number of small, model plantations of sufficient size to pay for the overhead charges of processing the nuts and of issuing seed to local people, and at the same time to encourage and assist surrounding villages to grow cashews on their bad lands (on plantation lines if possible) with a view to having the fruit processed in the Board's factories. In furtherance of this intention a Manager of the scheme has been appointed (Mr R. Harrison), and negotiations have been completed to lease a suitable site of some 1,300 acres at Akama, Oyofo, Neke, in the Udi Division of the Onitsha Province where it is hoped that planting can take place during the 1952 rains. It is further hoped to obtain additional sites in the Okigwi, Awka and Awgu Divisions at an early date so that further areas can be brought under cultivation during 1953.

Mr Harrison, who assumed duty on the 25th of November, has reported as follows :—

"This report on the Cashew Project must necessarily be brief, as the scheme has only recently come into being. There has been much advance publicity though, and great interest has been aroused, not only in the Enugu-Okigwi-Awka area, for the development of which the scheme was initiated, but from places much further afield.

"This report will deal with Cashew Industry as far as established, but account should be taken of work done which will lead to further acquisition of lands and the advancement of the Industry in the future.

"The Manager arrived in Nigeria on the 25th of November, 1952. At this time, no site had been selected, or land acquired, but there were in existence some thousands of cashew nut trees. These had been planted at various times at Udi, Enugu Ngwo, and Nanka by the Forestry Department mainly as an anti-erosion measure. There are many more trees planted on roadsides, and in Church and School compounds, primarily to give shade, but already producing useful crops of nuts.

"The Manager's first duty was to reconnoitre a suitable site for the "pilot" plantation. This was found at Akama Oghe in the Udi Division, a large slope of sandy laterite soil, which was almost completely unproductive. It is served by a Native Administration road which runs down to the Ajali River, but has no bridge.

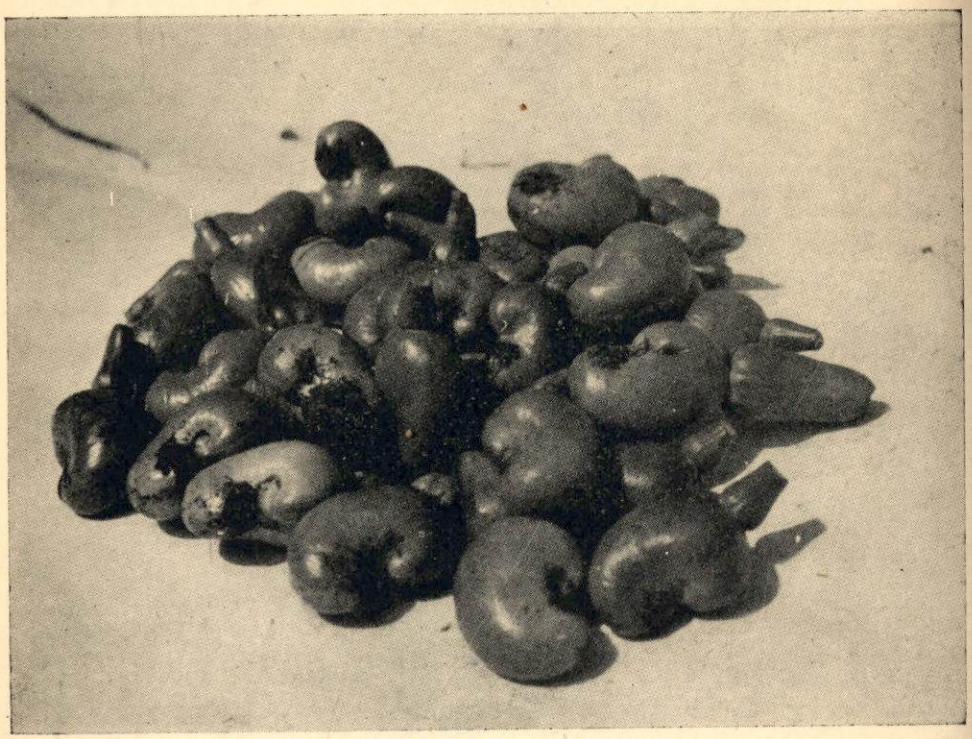
"After rather long drawn-out negotiations, which lasted from December, 1951, to the 17th of March, 1952, an agreement was signed at Akama on that date. It is essential that planting takes place during the rainy season and it is a matter of regret that the delay in negotiating the lease will probably limit the acreage which can be planted during the 1952 rains.



Cashew Trees near Enugu.

"Boundaries have been surveyed, and a ten-yard wide lane has been cut around the plantation which covers an area of 1,323 acres. A site has been cleared for temporary houses and stores. 683 man-days were worked, and a labour force of 85 men were in employment at the 31st of March.

"A tractor driver has been in training at the Abakaliki Farm since the 1st of January.



Cashew nuts.

"Buying agents were appointed in the cashew areas, in co-operation with District Officers, and have done good work in their efforts to collect this year's crop. The nuts collected by the agents, plus the harvest from the Experimental Plot at Nkwele Government Farm, will be used as seed for the pilot plantation.

"Mention must be made of the difficulty of getting transport, equipment, and implements. There is usually delay in delivery, even in the case of such common implements as spades and hoes.

"The cost of hiring transport is almost prohibitive, and in the interests of economy the Industry should have a full and ample establishment of mechanical transport under its own maintenance section. This section should not be costly if the Mill Engineer with his workshop and tools are utilised to the full.

"The cost of labour is not as cheap as may seem from the figure of 1s 6d per diem per labourer. There is a tendency to forget that "output" is tied to the daily rate. It has been suggested that clearing by contract might produce better results for money paid, but the rather unusual nature of the plantation work prevents this.

"Expenditure up to the 31st of March has been small, as little capital equipment has been purchased apart from the Manager's car. Salaries have only been paid to Manager and two drivers, until the engagement of labour after the lease was secured.

"In December, Dr J. D. Morgan, B.Sc., A.R.I.C., visited this country to advise on the prospects of the Cashew Scheme. He visited various establishments, and saw the trees growing. He tested the liquid content of the pericarp of the nuts, and was favourably impressed by the yield both as to quality and quantity. He reported most favourably on the proposal to establish a pilot plantation, with a mill for the extraction of the pericarp liquid, and the preparation of Cashew Kernels for the world market.

"I must acknowledge the great interest shown, and the help given by Mr H. J. M. Harding, Senior District Officer, Udi Division, and his Assistant in negotiating the lease of the plantation.

"The Department of Agriculture farms at Abakaliki and Nkwele have been most co-operative, the former in the training of a Tractor Driver, and the latter for information on their experimental plot of Cashew Trees. At the Nkwele farm, the Superintendent, Mr Chukura, showed every interest and helped greatly in ensuring that this season's crop of nuts were fully harvested, so that a reliable yield figure could be arrived at. He also carried out Germination Tests on old seed."

(2) Coffee Plantation, Santa

A considerable amount of arabica coffee, of inherent good quality, has been planted by local farmers in recent years on the uplands of the Bamenda Province, particularly in the vicinity of Santa near to the international boundary. The present high prices being paid for coffee from this area have been an incentive to planting ; but the market value of the coffee can only be assured in the future by first class processing. In establishing a plantation at Santa it is the Board's intention to set a model which local farmers can follow, and at the same time to provide a factory to process not only the coffee from the plantation, but also that grown by local farmers if they should wish to avail themselves of this service.

On the 1st of January, 1952, Certificates of Temporary Occupancy were issued to the Board (pending the issue of Certificates of Occupancy under the Land and Native Rights Ordinance), enabling the occupation of 1,200 acres for the coffee plantation and of 5,200 acres of grazing rights surrounding the plantation. Mr Mulder, the newly appointed Manager of the scheme, went to Bamenda early in February, 1952, and arrangements have been made

for the erection of the necessary housing and stores, and, owing to a nursery having been established during 1951, it is hoped to be possible to plant up a small area during the rains of 1952.

(3) Coconut Plantation, Bonny

As far back as on the 20th of December, 1949, the Board resolved :—

"That the Board attaches great importance to the early establishment and development of a copra industry in the Region. The Board records the view that by the establishment of a valuable secondary crop for the producers of the creek areas, the economy of the Region would be materially strengthened."

Implementation of the Board's resolution appeared impossible owing to the inherent transport difficulties of the Creek areas ; but with the revolution in creek transport made possible by the starting of a boat-building industry at Opobo (described in section VII (*d*) (3) below) the Board decided to push ahead with the establishment of a small coconut plantation at Bonny with the intention that similar small plantations should be established in the future at suitable places. As recorded elsewhere in this report (section VI—Policy) it is the Board's wish, when introducing new cash crops, to start a number of small plantations which will have the best processing machinery available and at the same time to encourage the surrounding villages to grow the same cash crop with seed from the Board's plantations. If the surrounding villages make use of the Board's processing machinery a high quality of the finished product will be assured, a quality at present too often lacking in some kinds of Nigerian produce.

Accordingly, and on the 7th of June, 1951, funds were made available to establish a 1,000-acre coconut plantation which it is hoped to site near Bonny in the Degema Division of the Rivers Province. Mr R. S. Boswijk has been appointed to manage the scheme, and at the time of writing he is investigating an area which is considered suitable and which the people of Bonny are prepared to lease.

While, at present, the essence of the Board's scheme is the production of copra the question of coir fibre production has not been overlooked and is in fact, being actively pursued by Mr Halsted of the Department of Commerce and Industries. It is hoped that it will prove possible to merge the copra production scheme with coir production as the result of Mr Halsted's investigations.

(4) Rubber Plantation, Oban

Rubber has been grown in the Eastern Region for over fifty years and it has long been known that, with proper care and attention, the trees are capable of producing latex comparable to that produced in other countries more normally associated with the industry. The care and attention of the trees have been lacking, however, and this coupled with processing by the worst possible means has resulted in most Nigerian rubber having an unenviable reputation. Thus an industry of great potential value in itself has largely

been ignored in the Eastern Region, and the Board considers it most desirable not only greatly to extend the areas under rubber cultivation, but at the same time to ensure that the latex is processed to the highest quality demanded by the world markets.

It appeared to the Board that the prerequisite to further development of the rubber industry in the Eastern Region was the establishment, with the Board as an active participant, of a plantation run on model lines and containing the best processing machinery available. As the result of meetings arranged by the Colonial Office it was possible to interest representatives of the Kuala Muda Rubber Estates, Limited, and their associates in the venture and on the invitation of the Board Mr L. I. Simpson (Managing Director of the Company) and Mr Muchison (a Senior Divisional Manager of the Company) visited Nigeria during January and February, 1952, and satisfied themselves that the area in view for the plantation contained in an enclave of the Oban Forest Reserve was suitable for the purpose.

At separate meetings held by the Directorate of the Kuala Muda Rubber Estates, Limited, and their associates and by the Eastern Regional Production Development Board the following proposals were ratified :—

(*i*) The formation in Nigeria of a Company for the purpose of establishing a rubber plantation in the Oban area of the Calabar Division, with the Kuala Muda Rubber Estates, Limited, and their associates and the Eastern Regional Production Development Board as the principal shareholders, subscribing 51 per cent and 49 per cent respectively of the capital requirements estimated at £800,000.

(*ii*) Management by the Kuala Muda Rubber Estates, Limited, or their associates.

(*iii*) The Board of Directors of the Company to consist of three nominees of the Kuala Muda Rubber Estates, Limited, and their associates, and three of the Eastern Regional Production Development Board. The Chairman of the Board of Directors to be nominated by the Kuala Muda Rubber Estates, Limited, and their associates who shall have the casting vote.

With this project, as with those others where it is the Board's aim to form Companies in Nigeria, it is the intention that Nigerian capital shall be encouraged to participate, and with that end in view the necessary arrangements will be made whereby the Board can, if it wishes, dispose of all or part of its capital investment to Nigerians.

By the establishment of this plantation, work on which will start during April, 1952, the Board is confident that the following vitally important objects will be achieved :—

(*i*) A large tract of land at present unproductive will be converted into an area of great economic value.

(*ii*) Villages, even at some considerable distance away, can be encouraged to plant rubber thereby increasing their wealth and improving their standard of living.

(*iii*) Income to the Board will be assured.

(*iv*) The surrounding villages will not be able to provide all the necessary labour force with the result that regular employment will be available for people from the over-populated Ibibio and Ibo areas.

(*v*) Improved types of trees, which are not available in Nigeria, will be introduced.

Towards the end of March, 1952, an Agreement to Lease some 12,000 acres was entered into by the people of Oban and the Board, and when the Company has been formed to operate the plantation the Board will sublet the land to the Company.

Shortly after the signing of the Agreement Mr M. Wainwright, Assistant Manager, arrived in Nigeria and proceeded to Oban to establish nurseries. A Manager for the project has been appointed and work on development will start immediately. It is a matter for some gratification that it has been possible to arrange so quickly for work to start on this most important venture, and it is confidently anticipated that the area will be cleared and planted up by 1958.

(*C*) *Schemes designed to Increase the Quantity and Improve the Quality of Foodstuffs*

(1) Obudu Cattle Ranch

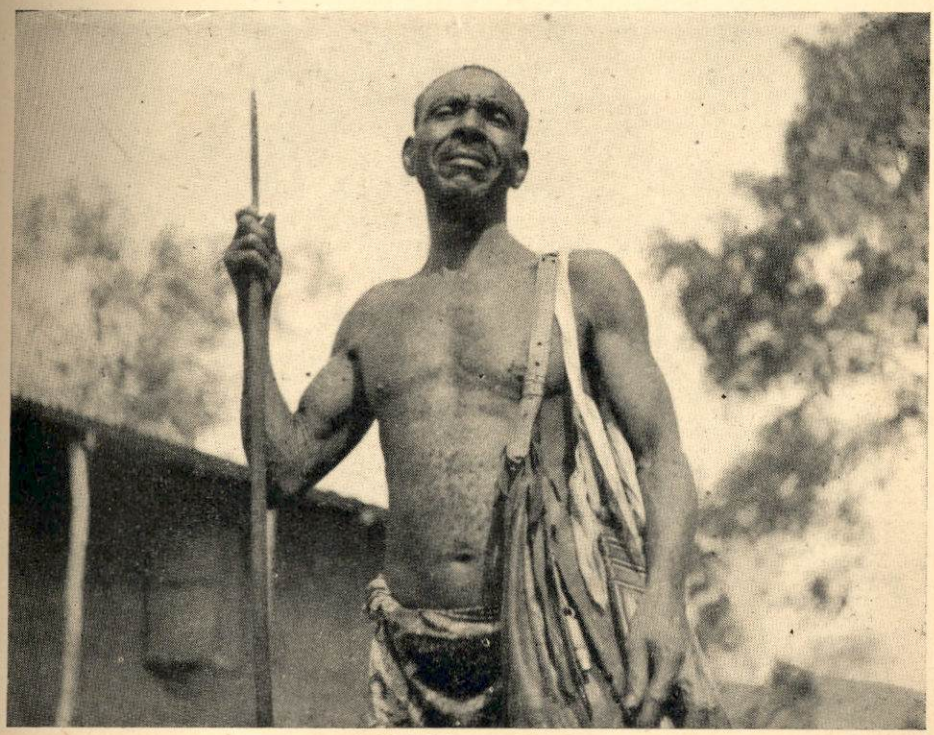
The Board's Cattle Ranch, situated at a height of some 3,500 feet on a grass covered plateau in the Obudu District of the Ogoja Province, was started on the 1st of January, 1951, when the Manager (Mr V. E. Hughes-Jones) and his wife trekked the twenty-six miles from road-head to the foot of the plateau and then, after a climb of about 3,000 feet in under one mile, built grass huts and shelters for themselves, their small staff and the cattle. The task facing them, of building up a stock of some 4,000 head of cattle and large flocks of sheep and goats in an area some 221 miles from the nearest stores whence all building materials, the necessities of life and machinery have to be transported 194 miles by lorry and then twenty-seven miles by head-load, would have killed the enthusiasm of most ; but within three months a camp had been established, staff recruited, eighty-two head of cattle and fifty sheep bought and a shop, managed by Mrs Hughes-Jones, opened for the benefit of the staff from which members could obtain stores essential to their well-being.

Of the year under review the Manager has reported :—

"(*i*) *Staff.*—Mr V. E. Hughes-Jones was in charge throughout the year, but proceeded on leave from the 1st of July until the 15th of September, 1951. Mr John Ndze was on duty throughout the period and took charge while the Manager was on leave. The Manager was fortunate in obtaining the services of a trained Veterinary Assistant, through the Native Administration,

Bamenda, and the Veterinary Department, who was in charge of cattle during his absence. A clerk was appointed in January, 1952. Apart from a few key-men, such as masons and carpenters from Bamenda, the majority of the labourers are local, nearly all of whom remained on the Plateau during the heavy rains, although many were off-duty from time to time with minor ailments. Herdsmen have been difficult to obtain and have left the plateau after short periods of work, especially if they have come without their wives.

"(*ii*) *General.*—The main objective during the year was to produce adequate shelter for man and beast. The problem of constructing permanent housing was not undertaken during the dry season of the early part of 1951, as it was hoped that by the end of 1951 there would have been a road adequate for a Land-rover which would have reduced the cost of transporting materials. On return from leave in September 1951, finding that there was little possibility of the road making appreciable mileage owing to the necessary



A Chief from Obudu.

construction of many permanent bridges and culverts on the stretch between Obanliko and Butum, it was decided to proceed with buildings. Attempts to collect sufficient carriers to head-load all building materials required, however, proved fruitless, as the local people appeared to find the trek arduous, and proved to be indifferent carriers. The rate for conveying materials has had consequently to be increased ; but in spite of this increase recruited carriers are inclined to return to their villages after carrying one, or at the

most, two loads. The question of obtaining timber has presented many difficulties. Although suitable timber trees have been found on the plain fairly near the foot of the plateau, sawyers have refused to come from the Obudu area in spite of being offered attractive terms. Consequently most of the seasoned timber used has had to be head-loaded from the road-end.

It was discovered that buying cattle of the types required was difficult and expensive. Arrangements were made with reliable cattle traders, but unfortunately their promises as to numbers procurable have not come up to expectation, in spite of their being helped with advances. The best breeding cattle, the homes of which are N'gaoundere and Banyo in the French Cameroons, are obtainable ; but export permits are difficult to obtain. The number of cattle on the plateau at the end of March, 1952, was 267 with a further 233 *en route*. The stock which has been on the plateau during the year has done well and the condition of all cattle is excellent. The grazing is as good as that on the Bamenda highlands, and with only one month completely free of rain the grass has remained succulent. In all parts where cultivation has been attempted there has been found rich, black soil, and both the small farms cultivated by the labourers and the Manager's vegetable garden have proved successful.

"(*iii*) *Buildings*.—Large quantities of building materials were collected on the plateau during the wet season and work proceeded on building the Manager's house and the Rest House. Although the rains were very heavy the masons were able to continue dressing stone, having covered a partially built portion of the house with galvanised iron sheets.

"The Manager's permanent house, together with boys' houses and kitchen, had roofs finished by the end of February and they should be completed by the end of May or the beginning of June, 1952. It would have been possible to have finished much sooner ; but it was felt that, as the dry season was so short, the remainder of it should be utilised in constructing more permanent quarters for the staff. The completion of the Manager's house will be done during the rains when little or no work can be carried on out of doors.

"A large number of temporary cattle sheds and herdsmen's houses have been erected during the year and as all beasts require some shelter during the rains, many more sheds will, necessarily, have to be built before July, 1952.

"Owing to considerable work on hand for all masons, and the collection and dressing of stone being a lengthy business, it was decided to build mud-block labour lines on stone foundations with concrete floors and galvanised-iron sheeting roofs. It is intended next year to build permanent labour lines, as mud-blocks are considered only semi-permanent, although quick to build. A communal room for all labour is in the process of being built. It is hoped that having dry houses and a place in which they can congregate around a fire will add to the comfort and content of labour during the heavy rains.



The Plateau from the distance.



The Manager's temporary house.



Gudala bull.



Mrs Hughes Jones on the way to Obudu.

"*(iv) Stock.*—The total stock, either purchased, bred, in Bamenda or *en route* to the plateau, now totals 504.

"Cattle, generally, have done well during the year, their condition showing great improvement after a short period on the plateau. The greatest casualties occurred amongst the Montbelliard herd, purchased from Cie Pastorale during the early part of 1951 ; a large percentage of these, however, died while still in Bamenda. The whole of this herd on arrival in Bamenda was soon infected with streptothricosis, and heart-water. Owing to the heavy rains on the plateau and to the absence of dipping facilities some of these cattle did not respond to treatment, in spite of being sheltered during the rains. Several have made miraculous recoveries. It should be remembered that these cattle were dipped regularly at Djuttitsa, and in the future this will be the practice on the plateau for all stock as soon as a dip can be constructed. Their progeny have done remarkably well and are in first-class condition. Other losses have occurred mainly amongst young calves. One yearling bull was killed by a leopard, one cow fell down a deep hunting pit, and one heifer fell 3,000 feet over the side of the Plateau towards Old Iquetti : difficulty was experienced in finding the latter which was eventually discovered by the smell. Some cattle, as was to be expected, were lost *en route*, salvage being made where possible. One large bull was given to the lessors in accordance with the local custom. A few cattle have been slaughtered and sold to the labourers.

"*Sheep.*—A flock of six ewes and three rams of the North Country Cheviot breed was purchased from the Society by the Manager, while on leave, and were brought back on a banana boat by his wife. The price of pedigree stock was most reasonable and the Society presented three of the ewes to the Ranch free of charge. The greatest expense was the freight which amounted to £119. The flock since its arrival on the plateau has done well, and at the time of writing many are heavy in lamb. One ewe died very suddenly on Boxing Day of pneumonia. It has yet to be proved whether they can withstand the heavy rains and frequent changes of temperature. It is interesting to note that although they were close shorn on embarkation (September), they have recently again had to be sheared. It has been a problem to know what to do with the small amount of wool, and a request has been made to the Director of Commerce and Industries for any advice and assistance.

"The local sheep have proved disappointing. The initial flock that arrived from Bamenda showed great improvement during their first months on the plateau ; but since the rains they appear to have deteriorated considerably, and practically all new born lambs and several ewes have died. The lambs have died in spite of hand feeding and it is felt that one of the reasons why young stock have died is that they have been born weak : the better ram purchased having died *en route* leaving only a much poorer specimen for breeding purposes. Since the arrival of the Cheviot sheep a Cheviot ram has been allocated to each flock, which it is hoped will improve the stamina of the local progeny.

"*Horses.*—Four horses were brought through from Bamenda by the Manager and three more have been purchased since. Practically all the horses have been infected with *trypanosomiasis* which developed soon after arrival on the plateau. These were all treated with antrycide, which in all cases proved efficacious.

"The horses have been hard-worked during their time on the plateau in saving the staff considerable time going from place to place. Many of the herdmen are obtaining instruction in horsemanship from the Manager's wife, which should prove invaluable with further expansion. It is hoped to purchase, if possible, one or two mares for breeding purposes.

"(*v*) *Transport and Equipment.*—The 2-3 ton Ford Thames truck and the Land Rover have given good service during the year. The former has saved a considerable amount of money in transporting materials. It is the intention to sell the Ford and in its place to purchase a heavier type with a convertable body which can be used for normal transport work and also to convey cattle. The Manager hopes to obtain advice regarding the most suitable type when next on leave.

"A Ferguson tractor, together with trailer and attachments, was purchased in the United Kingdom and was shipped to Port Harcourt where it arrived during November. Owing to difficulties with customs and clearance up to the time of writing it has not yet been railed to Enugu. It has been decided to attempt to man-handle the tractor and equipment up to the plateau.

"(*vi*) *Climate.*—Rainfall records and temperature readings were started on the 12th of April, 1951. The total rainfall for the period from the 12th of April, 1951, to the 29th of February, 1952, was 140.17 inches. Rain fell on 195 days and there was only one clear month (December) without rain. The maximum temperature has been recorded as 82 degrees and the minimum temperature as 50 degrees.

"(*vii*) *Welfare.*—The majority of the labourers appear fit and healthy although there have been numerous days lost mainly with minor ailments. Many of the staff have now their wives and children on the plateau. A small dispensary is run by the Manager's wife for the purpose of giving simple treatments.

"The canteen, also run by the Manager's wife, is welcomed by all the labourers. Foodstuffs, such as gari and rice are sold, as well as cloth, clothing, blankets, shoes, soap, matches, salt and kerosene. Monthly credit is given for all the major articles which proves an added attraction.

"Attempts have been made to start a market ; but the surrounding villages have been spasmodic in their attendance. In order to encourage them to bring up foodstuffs, they have been allowed to purchase soap, salt, kerosene and matches from the canteen. It is hoped that when the Obudu Plateau road-head is nearer to the plateau that it will be possible to sell them other goods as well. Also an occasional cow will be slaughtered on market day to give them an opportunity to buy."

In his above report the Manager has omitted to mention that in addition to the Cheviot sheep he bought two dogs in the United Kingdom which Mrs Hughes-Jones brought by sea to Nigeria : a Sheep-dog and a Collie pup. The Sheep-dog, a proved worker, has flatly refused to come to terms with the Nigerian sheep and is, indeed, terrified of them ; but the instinct to work has proved so strong that it has taken charge of the Rhode Island Red chicken and with great pride shepherds them from place to place. The Collie pup, on the other hand, shews signs of becoming a good sheep-dog.

(2) Fertiliser Scheme

In his Address to the Eastern House of Assembly on the 12th of February, 1952, the Lieutenant-Governor (Sir James Pyke-Nott, Kt., C.M.G., R.N. (retd.)), emphasised the importance of the Board's Fertiliser Scheme in the following words :—

> "In my Address to the Fourth Budget Session of the Eastern House of Assembly on the 6th of December, 1950, I called particular attention to two of the Board's projects, and I again wish to emphasise the importance of those projects to the economy and the general welfare of the Eastern Region. Firstly the Fertiliser Scheme. Experiments have provided beyond the shadow of a doubt that in parts of the Onitsha, Owerri and Calabar Provinces the judicious use of fertilisers will increase the yield of crops by some 75 per cent. Such increased yields will not only be of direct pecuniary benefit to the individual farmers, but will also go far to meet the acute shortage of foodstuffs which obtains in some parts of the Region. The Fertiliser Scheme, together with its determined drive to open the undeveloped areas of the Region, is typical of the important part that the Board is paying in an endeavour to improve the Region's economy and welfare."

Mr F. H. Drake was appointed to manage the scheme and took up his duties, with Aba as his headquarters, on the 25th of July, 1951, and immediately set about the task of selecting suitable sites for local stores from which fertilisers could be sold to farmers after those fertilisers had been mixed at and distributed from the central store at Aba. At the same time a contract was entered into with Costains (West Africa), Ltd., for the construction of the central store and ancillary buildings at Aba. Those buildings comprise the central store, covering an area of 18,000 feet and housing the mixing plant, which is fed from a railway siding by a light rail-track : a garage for six lorries and the Manager's house. This constructional work is now nearing completion and it is hoped to start making use of the store during April, 1952.

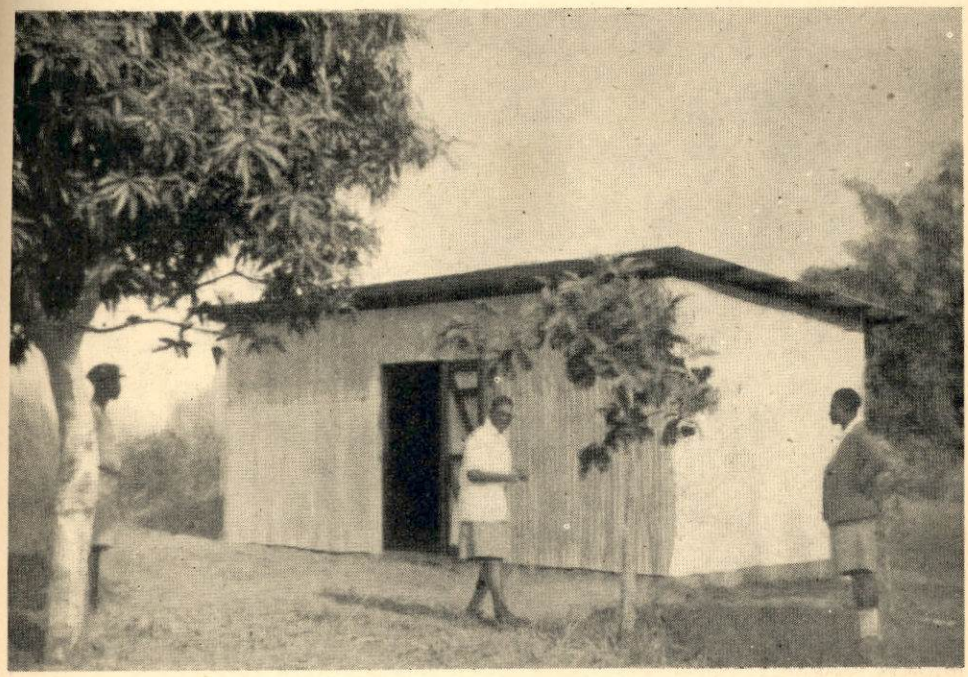
Mr F. H. Drake has submitted the following report on his activities since he assumed duty :—

"Arrangements for the preparation of Local Sub-Store sites for the local distribution of fertilisers were first discussed between the Agricultural Officer at Nkwelle and the Manager of the Fertiliser Scheme. Points for decision



Inside the Central Store at Aba.

were the siting of Sub-Stores in relation to the demand for fertilisers, and suitable types of store buildings. It was decided that the following centres should be given preference for Local Sub-Stores : Nnewi, Aguata, Awkuzu, Abatete and Awka in the Onitsha Province. This decision was reached in view of the fact that at these places fertilisers had already been widely demonstrated and there was an established demand from numerous local farmers, and during demonstrations at those places by the application of fertiliser the results had shown an approximate incremental yield on crops of 75 per cent.



Sub-Store at Abatete.

"It was subsequently decided, after discussion with District Officers and Agricultural Officers, to establish stores at Okigwi, Umuduru, Aboh, Ekeijedibia, Umuakanne, Abohia, Nsulu and Ongwa in the Owerri Province, and at Ikot Ekpene, Itu, Uyo and Ikot Ikoro in the Calabar Province. Eleven of these stores have now been built and each is intended to cover a distribution radius of some five miles. The buildings are prefabricated so that they can be easily assembled and dismantled according to the local demand for fertilisers. Their capacity is approximately 24 tons.

"The first consignment of 1,000 tons of fertiliser arrived at Port Harcourt during the month of August, 1951, and, as the Central Store had not been completed, was stored partly at Imo River and partly at Aba. The Arcon prefabricated building, intended for the Central Store at Aba, arrived at about the same time.

"In October, 1951, Messrs Costains (West Africa), Ltd., who had been awarded the contract to build the Central Store at Aba, started work on the site. It is expected that this building will be completed by the end of April, 1952. An interesting feature of the Central Store, which is 297 feet long and 62 feet wide, is the light track which has been installed to facilitate off-loading from Railway Wagons, and which will convey the fertilisers to the storing and mixing areas, and thence to the lorry loading ramp.

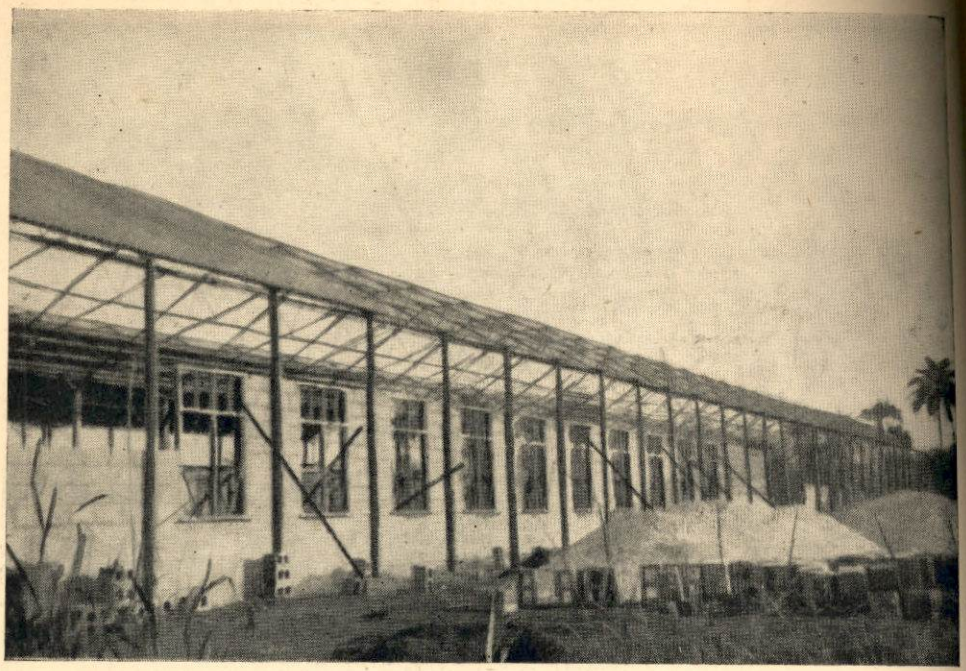


Fertiliser demonstration with yams.

"Details of the organisation required was discussed at a conference of Agricultural Officers held in Enugu during November, 1951, and it was then agreed that to get the scheme going, and to encourage farmers to buy fertilisers, it would be necessary to reduce the selling price to a level below the cost figure. It was estimated that the subsidised price of mixed fertiliser would be in the region of £4 per acre or £1 6s 8d per cwt ; but, in view of the increased yields of foodstuffs which would result from the widespread use of fertilisers, it was considered that the subsidy was justified. It was later agreed that more demonstration plots would be required to prove the



The Central Store at Aba.



The Central Store under Construction.



Railway siding and loading Ramps.

potentialities of fertiliser applications, and it was therefore decided that such plots should be provided near to each Local Sub-Store. It is not anticipated that the scheme will be fully operative until the beginning of 1953, and it is intended to stimulate sales during 1952, and in subsequent years by the widespread circulation of printed matter such as posters and pamphlets."

Meanwhile the Officers of the Department of Agriculture, with the assistance of Administrative Officers, are, with energy and enthusiasm, establishing demonstration plots in the Owerri, Onitsha and Calabar Provinces. These demonstration plots, which normally cover one tenth of an acre, receive an application of fertilisers under the supervision of a member of the Agricultural Department. At the time of harvest the crop is lifted and weighed and compared with the crop from an adjoining area of the same size. The results shew almost invariably that the crop from the area which has received an application of fertilisers is some seventy-five per cent heavier than that from the adjoining area.

As pointed out by the Manager above, much requires to be done to bring home to farmers the benefit to be obtained from the correct use of fertilisers, and the machinery of the Marketing Publicity Section has been invoked to assist in a propaganda drive. Posters and pamphlets are being prepared ; but there is no doubt that live demonstrations mean far more to the farmers than illustrations and pamphlets, and it is intended to recruit additional staff to assist in an all-out drive before the 1953 planting season.

At the time of writing this report, sales to farmers are reported to be satisfactory, and in one area 10,000 lb of fertilisers have been sold by one agent in ten days.

(3) Concentrates for Livestock

During the year 1950-51 the Board made a grant of £2,400 to the Agricultural Department of the Eastern Region to enable stores to be built at three Government Farms where stocks could be kept of feeding-stuffs for pigs, cattle, sheep, goats and poultry and where those feeding-stuffs could, when necessary, be ground. Accordingly stores were built at the Abak, Umudike and Nkwelle Government Farms and grinding machinery installed, from which farmers can buy concentrates for their Livestock.

During the year under review a demand for concentrates in the Ogoja Province became apparent and the Board made a further grant of £800 to the Agricultural Department to enable a store to be built at the Abakaliki Government Farm.

On the working of these stores the Director of Agriculture has reported :—

"The scheme, which has had a number of teething troubles connected with the 'red tape' of Government financial procedure, is now beginning to get into its stride in two of the centres, at Umudike Farm, Umuahia, and at Obio Akpa farm, Abak. Stores have been completed at both these places and stocked with concentrates.

"*At Umuahia*, the concentrates held consist of Palm Kernel Meal, Groundnut Cake, Blood Meal and Bone Meal the last two commodities being difficult to obtain. Lime is also stocked for mixing in rations to provide calcium. So far sales have been confined to keepers of pigs and poultry. Eighty-four sales to the value of £332 were made from the 1st of April, 1951, to the 20th of March, 1952, and purchasers have spoken highly of the scheme and the quality of the rations.

At Abak, the scheme started a little later but £235 10s 3d was spent on a stock of concentrates similar to those bought for Umuahia, together with transport and containers. Sales have totalled £98 12s 4d and foodstuffs were purchased by Missions and African pig and poultry keepers. It is expected that the scheme will expand when the facilities become better known.

At Nkwelle farm, Onitsha, delays were experienced in building and it was not until late in 1951-52 that the store was completed and stocked. £48 11s 8d worth of foodstuffs was sold to farmers and it is expected the turnover will be greatly increased in 1952-53.

A new account will be opened at Abakaliki soon and in all cases accounts and deposits will be handled in future with the aid of the nearest local Government body."

(4) Rice Mills

Owing to the efforts of the Agricultural Department, the acreage of rice grown in the Eastern Region has increased from less than 100 acres before the war to some 60,000 acres at the present time. The hulling of rice by hand is a most labourious process and to encourage the industry the Agricultural Department established four mills at suitable centres with the object of selling those mills to private enterprise as soon as it could be shewn that they were economic units.

To increase the acreage under rice cultivation it was considered desirable to set up mills in marginal areas where, although the present areas are insufficient to attract private capital to establish mills, it was thought that the existence of one would induce farmers in the surrounding area to bring greater acreage under cultivation. Past experience had shewn that if local farmers could be assured of mechanical hulling of the crop they were prepared to plant it.

The Board considered that everything possible should be done to encourage farmers to increase the acreage of rice cultivation, and accordingly made a grant of £5,000 to the Agricultural Department in 1950-51 to enable three rice mills to be set up in marginal areas. It is the intention to sell these, and to use the capital elsewhere for the establishment of further mills, as soon as the acreage grown in the vicinity of a mill ensures its economic success.

Of the year under review the Director of Agriculture has reported :—

"In 1950 the Board authorised a grant of £5,000 to the Agricultural Department to erect and operate rice mills. Expenditure of this sum began in 1951-52 through Appendix "M" of the Regional Estimates and amounted

to £2,546 6s 0d leaving a balance of £2,453 14s 0d to carry forward. The erection of mills is of great importance in assisting the expansion of the growing rice industry. In the well established areas such as Abakaliki, the original mills owned by the Agricultural Department have led the way and proved to be efficient and profitable. Two of them have been sold and are now fighting competition from others erected privately. The erection of new mills financed by the Board is therefore confined to marginal areas where expansion is considered possible but where at present insufficient paddy is grown to keep a mill working full time. Unless sufficient paddy is grown to do this, private enterprise is not attracted and the lack of a mill will slow down expansion of the area under cultivation. These mills will therefore be of great benefit in the drive for food production.

"*Bende Mill, Owerri Province.*—A new mill, the building for which cost £600, has been erected near Bende Government Station. It awaits installation of machinery. A huller has been obtained and an engine has been ordered from the United Kingdom.

"*Ndeaboh Mill, Onitsha Province.*—This new mill started operations on the 17th of March, 1952, after a long delay due to shortages of essential parts found to be missing on arrival. It is sited near the railway and consists of a No. 7 huller and Blackstone Engine.

"*Aguleri Mill (Otuocha), Onitsha Province.*—This mill was originally built from Regional funds in 1948 but is now operated through Appendix "M" of the Regional Estimates. This is a heavily patronised mill ; 200 tons of paddy were hulled in 1949-50 at a profit of £250 and in 1950-51, 316 tons were milled, showing a profit of £465. The results for 1951-52 are not as good, the mill had lengthy stoppages for overhaul due to advancing age and hard work. The mill is fed with paddy brought down by canoe from the Anambra Creek rice growing areas. The mill has stimulated the erection of three privately-owned mills which have opened in recent weeks in the Onitsha and Nsukka Divisions ; but there should be room for more of them.

"*Iyahe (Bansara) Mill, Ogoja Province.*—This mill was sited and built from Regional funds in 1950-51. It started operating for its first full season in 1951-52 from Appendix "M" of the Regional Estimates but results have been disappointing. This is not to say that rice cultivation has not been stimulated ; there is more than enough to keep it going at full stretch. It suffers from competition from the Abakaliki mills forty-five miles away. Traders from Abakaliki find it profitable to advance money to farmers to grow rice on the understanding that the crop is sold to them. Much of the paddy is transported to Abakaliki for hulling by hand or machine and by-passes the Iyahe mill, even though hulling locally would save 1s 3d in freight charges. The mill is being sold as several persons wish to buy it and appear to be able to provide the necessary goodwill in the district.

"A huller has been provided for a new mill which will probably be erected at Obudu, a marginal area. The engine has been ordered from the United Kingdom."

(D) *Miscellaneous Projects*

(1) Central Offices at Enugu

The new offices, of which mention is made in the second Annual Report, were completed and ready for occupation by the middle of June, 1951. Owing, however, to delays in obtaining essential furniture and equipment, to the difficulty of recruiting the necessary qualified clerical staff and to the length of time required to transfer the Board's records from the Secretariat to the new building, it was not possible to move into the Board's offices until the Chairman and Secretary returned from leave at the beginning of November, 1951.

With the completion of the central offices it has been possible to make a start on building up the central organisation, the lack of which at one time seriously threatened the well-being of the Board's affairs. Above all it has been possible to initiate a separate accounts branch, which was joined by Mr S. N. Obi, M.B.E., late of the Accountant General's Department, on the 1st of March, 1952, and which will be joined by Mr H. Taylor, C.A., A.I.Fit., Senior Accountant, towards the end of April, 1952.

Mr J. O. Kwentoh, a retired Government Assistant Chief Clerk, joined the Junior Staff on the 1st of December, 1951, as Chief Clerk, and he has been ably assisted by a willing team of male and female typists who have worked for long hours.

Mention must also be made of Mr A. B. Enyong, sometime Native Administration Treasury Supervisor at Awka, who under the direction and supervision of the Secretary (Mr H. M. Whittington) has kept the Board's books posted throughout the year.

The Board's Central Staff was strengthened towards the end of 1951 by the arrival of Major C. Baillie, Resident Engineer, and Mr J. W. Schuit, Agriculturist.

(2) Senior Staff Flats at Enugu

The construction of the block of flats containing six quarters, which was undertaken by the Public Works Department, has been woefully slow. Funds were made available on the 1st of October, 1950 ; but it was not until the middle of March, 1952, that the block was completed. In the meantime it was imperative that, unless there was to be a complete break-down of the central organisation, newly recruited members of the Senior Staff should arrive in Enugu to take up their duties. Fortunately the Chairman was in a position to offer accommodation in his own house, and at first an Estate Manager and his wife and subsequently the Resident Engineer, his wife and two children, while suffering the discomforts consequent upon sharing a house, were at least able to get a roof over their heads.

The Board's thanks are due to both Messrs G. B. Ollivants, Ltd., and to the Prisons Department for permitting members of the Board's central staff to occupy their houses at various times.

That this unaccountable delay, whereby a period of thirty months was taken to construct one small block of flats, has not only caused the gravest inconvenience but has also resulted in slowing down the Board's business, cannot be denied.

(3) Marketing Publicity

Major M. N. Hennessy, Assistant Public Relations Officer (Marketing), paid a number of visits to Enugu, and there can be little doubt that his drive and initiative will do much to give badly needed publicity to the Board's activities. The majority of the schemes described earlier in this report are being developed in areas far removed from the centres of population with the result that little is known by the general public of the Board's manifold activities and rapid progress. This lack of knowledge is to be deplored and it is hoped that the publicity section will, under Major Hennessy's direction, remedy the situation.

During the year a film was made by the Public Relations Office film unit of the Pioneer Oil Mill Scheme, and it is expected to be released in the near future. This film, which is entitled "Invitation to Wealth", and which in narrative form compares the old and primitive method of palm oil extraction with the modern methods of the Pioneer Oil Mills, should do much to break down the lingering opposition to the modern methods which, as described elsewhere in this report, still persists in parts of the Calabar Province despite untiring efforts by the Administration to bring about a better frame of mind.

(4) Cocoa Improvement Schemes

Mention has been made, under section III—Legislation above, that the Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board decided to transfer its responsibilities, in so far as development is concerned, to the Regional Production Development Boards and that provision was accordingly made in the new legislation. The Ordinance further provides that the Regional Production Development Boards shall take over and carry through without any fundamental change any uncompleted schemes started by the Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board.

The commitments which the Eastern Regional Production Development Board has been required to assume, to carry existing plans to completion in the year 1956-57, total some £65,175. Work under the existing plan is carried out by the Agricultural Department, and annual figures are included in the Estimates of the Eastern Region, 1952-53, as Appendix E.M. Those figures are :—

	£
(*i*) Cocoa Survey (including the eradication of Swollen Shoot)	9,570
(*ii*) Improvement of Quality of Cocoa	1,980
(*iii*) Long-term Rehabilitation and Planting of New Areas	1,660
Total	13,210

Allocations received by the Board from the Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board during March, 1952, were :—

	£
For the years 1947-50	172,522
For the year 1950-51	93,482
Total	266,004

With these funds made available to the Board it will be possible to extend considerably the existing plan, and it is hoped that arrangements can be made for bringing into cocoa production areas in the Ogoja and Owerri Provinces where soil and climatic conditions are suitable for this crop.

(5) Boat Building Industry, Opobo

Since early in 1950, the Department of Commerce and Industries has been operating a small boat-building yard at Opobo where, under the direction of Mr J. Munn, prototypes of various kinds of small craft have been built. The most interesting and important prototype was a flat-bottomed, spoon-bow wooden barge designed for use in creeks and inland waterways. The barge is forty-six feet long with a nine feet seven inches beam, three feet six inches moulded depth and with an eight inches unloaded and twenty-one inches loaded draught. The barge has tiller steering and is powered with a fifteen horse-power Diesel Engine with a 2-1 reduction which gives a speed of five knots. The carrying capacity of the barge is twenty tons. The cost of construction is approximately £1,200.



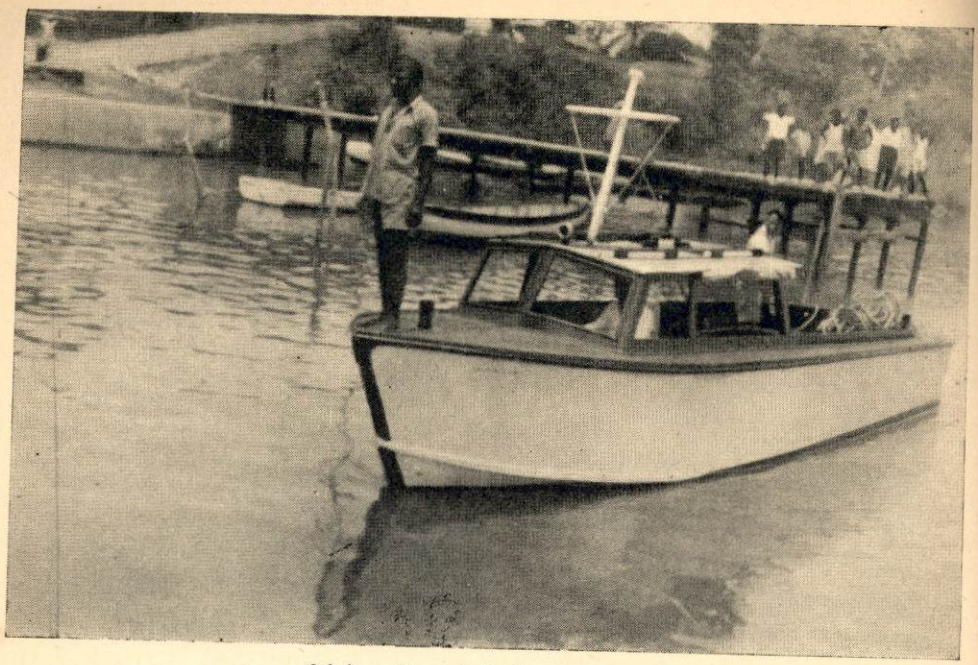
The prototype barge under construction.



Preparing to turn the barge over.

For many years it has been recognised that the creek areas of the Eastern Region hold a tremendous potentiality for economic development as large areas are suitable for growing rice, which is a crop playing an ever increasing part in feeding the large and growing population of the Region. In addition, other areas are suitable for growing coconuts on a large scale for copra and fibre production, and even larger areas contain a high density of palm bush. The limiting factor of economic development in the creek areas has been the difficulty of evacuating the crops and the movement of persons.

The barge designed by Mr Munn having successfully undergone her trials, it appeared of the utmost importance to the Board to do everything possible to ensure an adequate supply of this type of craft for use in the creek areas. Accordingly, and with the ready assistance of the Director of the Department of Commerce and Industries (Mr H. B. Cox), arrangements are being made to lease a suitable site at Opobo and to obtain the necessary machinery so that, under the supervision of Mr Munn, at least two barges can be launched per month. An integral part of the scheme is the training of suitable men to become qualified Quartermasters to take charge of the barges, and of artisans to undertake the construction of the barges. It is the Board's hope that, when fully trained, a number of artisans will establish boat-building industries, similar to that planned for Opobo, at other suitable centres in the creek areas.



26-foot launch built at Opobo.

(6) Onitsha Market Reconstruction

The Onitsha market is an exceptional one in that it is the greatest single trading centre in the region of the lower Niger, if not in the whole of West Africa. The existing market consists of some two thousand six hundred dirty makeshift stalls ; but the site is ideally situated on the edge of the River Niger with a deep water channel right along the market's broadest edge. Onitsha is situated on the main Nigerian east-west Trunk Road, and thus has direct communications by river and by road with the most populous parts of Nigeria and with other important trading centres. The market has for long been a thriving one, and it is likely to continue so indefinitely.

The existing market, composed of ramshackle temporary stalls, is not worthy of its importance, and the Onitsha Town Native Authority has for some considerable time explored ways and means of modernising it. Realising that half-measures would achieve little the Native Authority retained Messrs R. Travers Morgan and Partners, Consulting Engineers of London, to carry out investigations and to report how best the market could be improved. Mr Scott White, a senior partner in the firm, visited Onitsha during September, 1950, and as the result of his investigations gave it as his opinion that, apart from the need to improve the facilities in the market, it was essential that steps should be taken to improve the actual site of the market if it were not to become a grave danger to health and if the maximum commercial benefit were to be derived from the market area.

Mr Scott White gave a preliminary estimate of £332,000 to complete site improvements and the reconstruction of the market ; but prices of essential materials have since increased to such an extent that the work would now cost not less than £500,000.

In April, 1951, an application was made by the Nigerian Government (whose Financial Secretary had, in 1950, given an assurance that the sum necessary to implement the schemes in full would be found) for a loan from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds. This application was, however, rejected and as the Government could not then, and was unlikely in the foreseeable future to be able, to advance loan monies to finance the project it seemed that this notable scheme, which would be both remunerative in itself and would form the foundation for further development, would have to be abandoned.

In December, 1951, the new Regional Production Development Boards Ordinance, to which reference has been made in the earlier sections of this Report, came into effect and included in its provisions powers for the Boards to make loans for certain specified purposes. It appeared to the Eastern Regional Production Development Board that in the Onitsha Market scheme there was an excellent opportunity to achieve two purposes, namely to maintain a long-term reserve of half a million pounds sterling earning interest at the rate of 3 per cent, and at the same time to permit that reserve to be used to carry out a development scheme of major economic importance.

Accordingly, and on the 3rd of January, 1952, the Board agreed to finance the project on the following terms :—

(*i*) The Board would make the sum of £500,000 available in annual capital payments as may be agreed after further discussions with the Consulting Engineers.

(*ii*) The loan would be interest free until the commencement of the last phase of construction from which date it shall bear interest at the rate of 3 per cent per annum, and shall be repayable in full over twenty years from the commencement of the last phase of construction as an equated annuity or annuities.

(*iii*) Repayment of the capital sums and of interest shall be secured as a first charge on the revenues of the Onitsha Town Native Authority.

(*iv*) The Board shall have access through its agents to the accounts of the Onitsha Town Native Authority relating to the reconstruction of the market and to the revenue of the Authority and shall also have the right through its agents to inspect the constructional works.

These conditions were accepted by the Onitsha Town Native Authority ; but owing to legal difficulties it has not yet been possible for the Board to enter into a formal agreement with the Native Authority. Until the Bill enacted by the Eastern Regional House of Assembly in February,

1952, for "A Law to enable Native Authorities in the Eastern Region to raise loans within Nigeria", becomes law the Native Authority has no statutory authority to borrow the money. At the time of writing it is hoped that the Bill will shortly become law, and that the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council will sanction the loan.

(7) Calabar-Arochuku Road

In order to open up the large, underpopulated area within the bend of the Cross River which, although at present undeveloped, is potentially rich, and in order to link the proposed Calaro Plantation [Section VII (*a*) (2) above] with the port of Calabar, it was decided to construct a road from Calabar to Arochuku.

Work on the section between the west bank of the Cross River was started by the Assistant District Officer, Arochuku, during 1950, and the road is now within a short distance of the river. But it was not until June, 1951, that it was possible to arrange for the construction of the section from Odukpani to the east bank of the river, which section runs through most difficult and heavily forested country, when Costain (West Africa), Ltd., entered into a contract to undertake the work at an estimated cost of nearly £200,000.

Construction of the Odukpani—Cross River section was started towards the end of November, 1951, and of the work done from then until the 31st of March, 1952, the site Agent (Mr R. R. Lloyd) has reported :—

"The contract opened on the 1st of October, 1951, on the arrival of the site Agent, General Foreman and Accountant. A start was at once made on building road-head quarters and offices at Odukpani (14 miles from Calabar). By mid-November these were suitable for occupation and the remaining three Europeans had arrived on the site.

"Work on the road was commenced on the 13th of October when the first bush was cleared. When it became apparent that the plant delivery would be some five months late, work was pushed ahead on the clearing and on the pilot road by hand labour. By the 31st of March, 1952, twenty-seven miles of bush had been cleared and seventeen miles of pilot road put through, giving access to the Calabar River bridge site. The pilot road was stopped at this point as no useful purpose would be achieved by crossing the Calabar River this dry season. European and African camps at the Calabar River are now under construction.

"The Iyako River bridge, and all culverts between Odukpani and the Iyako, are under construction. Much work was done on the culverts using hand knapped stone for aggregate where available, whilst awaiting the arrival of lorries and the crushing plant. The transport eventually arrived on the 3rd of March, and the crusher started work on the 21st of March.

"Widening the Odukpani road is in progress, a total of about 12,000 cubic yards of excavation up to a height of 35 feet being required. About 8,000 cubic yards have been removed by hand to date, and a start made on surfacing this section on the arrival of the first roller in March.

"The Calabar River bridge site was ready for a constructional work the end of February ; two months ahead of what had been expected ; ut owing to the breakdown of both bulldozers we have been unable to et the compressor through to the site.

"It is fortunate that bush clearance by hand labour was pushed ahead s it has been found that clearance by the type of bulldozer supplied is ery difficult owing to the dangers of fouling the hydraulic gear.

"The delay in plant delivery and non-availability of spares, which are till in shipment, has left the very bad ground between Odukpani and the vako in a far from finished state. This has always been recognised as he most difficult section of the job and it had been hoped to complete his before the 1952 rains.

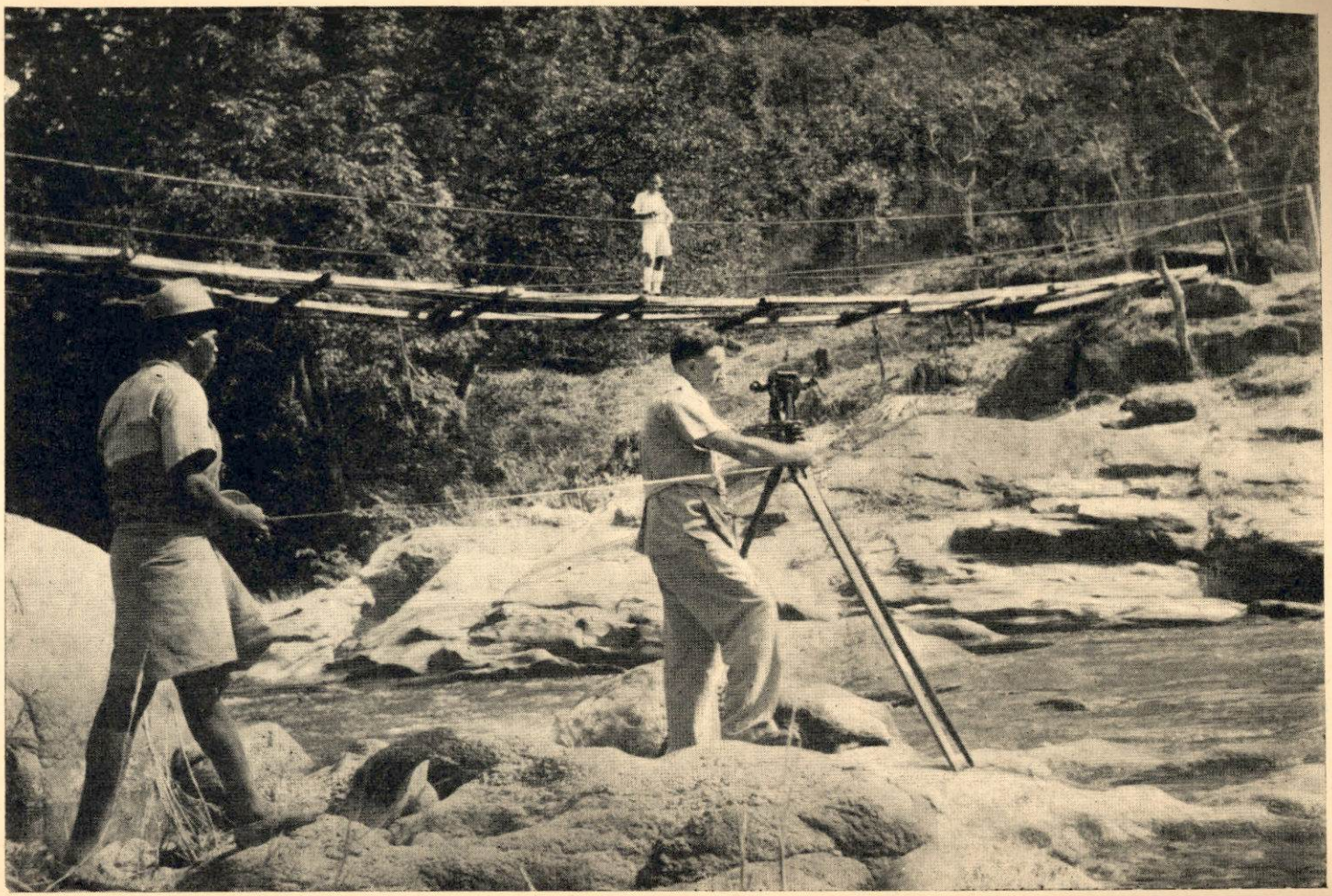
"As conditions are at the moment it will be most difficult to maintain he job across to the good ground during the rainy season but preparation or the effort is being made."

(8) Obudu-Plateau Road

In order to connect the grass plateau on which the Board's Cattle Ranch is situated with the road system of the Obudu Division it was necessary to construct some forty miles of new road through most difficult



Obudu-Plateau road under construction.



Site of the Batum bridge.



60-foot bridge nearing completion.

mountainous country and to improve the standard of some six miles of existing road. The original intention was to construct a pilot road with timber deck bridges ; but on further consideration and with the knowledge that the road might be continued to link up with the Bamenda-Mamfe road systems, thus opening up vast tracks of undeveloped and under-populated territory, the Board decided to construct a Class II road with reinforced concrete bridges.

The construction of this road was entrusted to the firm of Dolcino and Micheletti who started work in the middle of December, 1950. It was decided to concentrate all efforts on the construction of the thirty-five bridges, totalling some 1,000 feet in length, and the two hundred and sixty culverts that the road entails, in order to make the foot of the plateau accessible by jeep as early as possible. Once the bridges and culverts have been constructed and the pilot road is through work can proceed on bringing the track up to Class II standard.

The work, which has been under the charge of Mr Dolcino, has pushed ahead at a good pace despite the many difficulties which have been encountered. Labour is in short supply, and food for the labour most difficult to obtain, and the contractor has found it necessary to divert

much needed transport to bring in essential foodstuffs. In addition the labour, which is willing and cheerful, is unskilled and inexperienced and much time is lost in giving the necessary training. An added difficulty is the necessity of having to transport all stores and most materials from Enugu, some 190 miles away.

Camps, labour-lines and offices have been constructed and then dismantled and moved forward as the road construction progressed. Six miles of road have been rehabilitated, which involved the construction of numerous culverts, and fifteen miles of new road have been made. Twelve reinforced concrete bridges, totalling 480 feet in length, have been completed and it is anticipated that the largest bridge on the road, which will span the Butum River and which is some 160 feet wide, will be completed by the beginning of June, 1952.

(9) Grants For Road Construction

Grants for the construction of, or improvements to, the following roads have been made, subject to certain conditions, during the year :—

(*i*) *Owutu-Unwana : Kpogrikpo-Unwana* (Ogoja Province). Unwana is situated on the Cross River and until recently was an important produce evacuation centre. The road has, however, seriously deteriorated and can no longer be used for lorries, and accordingly the Board made a grant of £6,000 to put it in order.

(*ii*) *Nwaniba Road End* (Calabar Province). A grant of £4,000 was made to enable the road-end to be strengthened to withstand heavy lorry traffic and the weight of palm oil drums.

(*iii*) *Cocoa Roads, Bende Division* (Owerri Province). Cocoa growing is increasing in the Bende Division and a grant of £16,000 was made to enable four new roads to be constructed in order to stimulate the further planting of cocoa trees.

(*iv*) *Atimbo-Ikang Road* (Calabar Province). This road is carrying an ever-increasing weight of traffic evacuating palm produce and a grant of £7,000 was made to enable concrete bridges to be substituted for wooden structures.

VIII.—FINANCE

The Eastern Regional Production Development Board derives its funds from the Nigeria Marketing Boards which make grants to the Regional Production Development Boards in due proportion to the value of produce bought by approved agents in the respective Regions. Allocations

by the Marketing Boards are made on the following apportionment of their surplus funds :—

	per cent
To Price Stabilisation	70
To Research	7½
To Development	22½

The predominant export crop of the Eastern Region is oil palm produce and as the result of that predominance the bulk of the funds at the disposal of the Eastern Regional Production Development Board have been made available by the Nigeria Oil Palm Produce Marketing Board. The original allocation from that source of £1,608,665 12s 6d was based on the percentage values of the total purchases of the respective Regions during the period February, 1947 to January, 1948, which resulted in the following percentages so far as the Eastern Region was concerned :—

	per cent
Palm Kernels	51.10
Palm Oil	85.05

On these bases the following initial allocations from the Nigeria Oil Palm Produce Marketing Board were made to the Eastern Regional Production Development Board :—

	£	s	d
In respect of Palm Kernel	891,056	5	0
In respect of Palm Oil	717,609	7	6
Total	£1,608,665	12	6

As noted above in section III, it was not until 1951 that the Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board divested itself of its development powers and made grants available to the Regional Production Development Boards for that purpose. The apportionment to the Regional Production Development Boards on the basis of the value of total purchases in the respective Regions resulted in the Eastern Regional Production Development Board receiving an initial allocation from the Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board of £172,522 for the 1947-1950 seasons and of £93,482 for the 1950-51 season, those sums being based on 3.69 per cent of the total purchases. Those allocations, totalling £266,004, were subject to deductions of £22,917 for development schemes already planned by the Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board in respect of which liabilities had been incurred during the year 1950-51.

Allocations received by the Eastern Regional Production Development Board to date are :—

	£ s d	£ s d
Nigeria Oil Palm Produce Marketing Board :—		
1947-1949	1,608,665 12 6	
1949-50	694,560 0 0	
1950-51	1,049,926 10 0	
		3,353,152 2 6
Nigeria Groundnut Marketing Board :—		
1949-50	3,600 0 0	
		3,600 0 0
Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board :—		
1947-1950	172,522 0 0	
1950-51	93,482 0 0	
		266,004 0 0
Total allocations ...		£3,622,756 2 6

In addition to the above allocations the Board has been guaranteed by the Nigeria Oil Palm Produce Marketing Board its proportionate share of the sum of £800,000, amounting to some £400,000 per year, for each until 1956.

The Board's reserve and surplus funds as at the 31st of March, 1952, are invested in the following securities :—

Description	*Nominal Value*	*Cost Price (Net)*	31-3-53 *Middle Price*	*Market Value*
	£	£ s d		£ s d
2½ per cent National War Bonds 1952-4	400,000	407,653 10 9	98¾	395,000 0 0
3 per cent Savings Bonds 1955-65	250,000	249,845 15 0	90	225,000 0 0
3 per cent Savings Bonds 1950-70	250,000	241,095 15 0	84	210,000 0 0
,, ...	300,000	296,064 10 0	84	252,000 0 0
,, ...	467,530	449,999 12 6	84	392,725 4 0
,, ...	220,000	Transferred from Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board.	84	184,800 0 0

The following schedule sets out projects either approved by the Board or under consideration :—

Project	*Approved Estimate* £	*Estimated cost to 1956, or to completion, to nearest £1,000* £
Pioneer Oil Mills	670,000	1,000,000
Ikun Oil Palm Plantation ...	60,000	60,000
Calaro Oil Palm Plantation ...	300,000	300,000
Cashew Nut Industry ...	200,000	200,000
Obudu Cattle Ranch ...	76,000	76,000
Obudu-Plateau Road ...	124,000	124,000
Central Offices	14,000	14,000
Central Flats	10,000	12,000
Kwa Falls Oil Palm Estate ...	120,000	120,000
Fertiliser Scheme	200,000	200,000
Concentrates for Livestock ...	3,200	4,000
Calabar-Aro Road	115,000	230,000
B.C.C. Scheme	28,000	28,000
Santa Coffee Estate	165,000	165,000
Uturu Oil Palm Plantation ...	50,000	50,000
Marketing Publicity	3,000	3,000
Preliminary Investigations ...	50,000	50,000
Bonny Coconut Plantation ...	61,000	61,000
Boat Building at Opobo ...	30,000	50,000
Improvements to Inland Ports	160,000	160,000
Necessary Expenses	11,350	226,350
Reconstruction of Onitsha Market	500,000	500,000
Rice Mills	5,000	5,000
Oban Rubber Estate ...	400,000	400,000
Grants for Road Improvements	33,000	—

IX.—CONCLUSION

There has been an ever-increasing volume of work during the year in connexion with the Board's affairs, and from what has been detailed in this Report it will be apparent that much has been done to initiate the many and various schemes which had been planned and approved in previous years. The following table, which summarises the employees engaged on the Board's projects, is a measure of the rapid expansion which has taken place during the year under review :—

Employees	*31st March,* 1951	*31st March,* 1952	*Increase*
Senior Staff	22	44	22
Junior Staff	111	357	246
Labour	1,384	3,161	1,777
Total	1,517	3,562	2,045

The crescendo of development was most marked during the last four months of the year, and it is imperative that it shall be maintained during the year 1952-53 and in subsequent years in order that the Board's goal, of increasing the level of wealth of both the population and of the Region, may be the more quickly achieved. The period of planning is over, and the principal task in the future must be to ensure that the projects are carried out on the approved lines to completion. It can be safely claimed that, during the brief thirty-two months of its existence, the Board has done much, and in handing over to its successor it is earnestly hoped that the same spirit of unselfish service to the Region and of impartial judgment, which have characterised the present Board's deliberations, may prevail in the future.

Owing to the lack of accommodation in Enugu, referred to elsewhere in this report, the executive of the Board has had to be kept small with the result that that executive has been required to bear an almost intolerable burden of labour and responsibility. The Board wishes to record its appreciation of the services rendered by the Secretary, Mr H. M. Whittington, who without respite or assistance has been called upon to deal with the Board's multitudinous routine affairs in addition to his duties as a Government official.

Finally, the Board wishes to add its own tribute to the very many already paid to the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir James Pyke-Nott, KT., C.M.G., R.N. (retd.), who will have retired before this report is published. The members of the all too slender executive of the Board have been inspired and sustained by his enthusiasm, and greatly assisted in their arduous duties by his wisdom and advice. The Members of the Board will sadly miss his presence, and above all his friendship, in Enugu.

Chairman

H. F. P. Wetherell.

Members

M. Park, Director of Agriculture, Eastern Region.
O. Efiong.
Galega, Fon of Bali.
P. E. Chukwurah.
D. N. Achara.
W. Ubani.
L. N. Mbanefo.
Prince A. Abbi.

ENUGU,
31st March, 1952.

GP ENUGU
220/652/1,000 bks.