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NIGERIA

**SECOND
ANNUAL REPORT**
of the
**EASTERN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BOARD, 1950-51**

MINISTER OF LAND,
SUPPLY AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT
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Second Annual Report of the Eastern Regional Development Board, 1950-51

PART I

INTRODUCTION

The Eastern Regional Development Board was established on the 14th of May, 1949, under Ordinance No. 14 of 1949, as joint successor, with similar Boards in the Northern and Western Regions and in the Colony, to the Nigeria Local Development Board, which was wound up on the 31st of March in the same year.

Constitution

2. The Ordinance requires that the Board shall be composed of at least five members of whom three shall be Unofficial Members of the Eastern House of Assembly. All members are appointed by the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces. At the end of the year under report the Board was composed of :—

The Secretary (Development), Eastern Provinces, *Chairman*.

The Regional Treasurer.

The Regional Deputy Director of Agriculture.

Dr the Hon. Sir Francis Ibiam, K.B.E., *Member of the House of Assembly*.

Mr A. Ikoku, O.B.E., *Member of the House of Assembly*.

Mr A. Okon, *Member of the House of Assembly*.

Mr P. E. Chukwurah, *Member of the House of Assembly*.

Sir Francis Ibiam and Mr Ikoku have been absent from Nigeria during the second half of the year, and to act in their place during their absence abroad the Chief Commissioner has appointed :—

The Hon. Mr L. N. Mbanefo, *Member of the House of Assembly*.

Mr D. N. Achara, *Member of the House of Assembly*.

Meetings

3. Six meetings of the Board have been held during the year, on :—

2nd May, 1950.

13th June, 1950.

11th August, 1950.

12th October, 1950.

2nd December, 1950.

16th March, 1951.

Funds

4. On the 1st of April, 1950, the Board's assets totalled £362,830 10s 0d made up as follows :—

	£	s	d
Value of loans outstanding	71,941	3	5
Sundry Debtors	93,179	12	2
Funds deposited with Accountant-General	197,709	14	5

5. During the year the demands made on the Board's resources steadily increased and it has been necessary to draw heavily on reserves. Loans and grants made have totalled approximately £109,972, of which the largest sums have been paid to various public bodies. Administrative expenses have been £252 17s 1d. Partially offsetting these disbursements, the Board has received the sum of approximately £19,116 in repayment of principal and in interest on various loans and £2,397 2s 7d in interest accrued on its funds deposited with the Accountant-General. In addition, the Board's interest in the Pioneer Oil Mill Scheme in the Region has been finally bought out by the Eastern Regional Production Development Board for £92,153 8s 5d. As a result of these transactions the value of loans outstanding has increased to £163,752 11s 5d while funds deposited with the Accountant-General and with Messrs the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, have been reduced to £170,682 1s 2d. Sundry Debtors have been reduced to £1,376 14s 0d. The Board has, however, further commitments which total £92,432.

6. In Part II of this report will be found the balance sheet, setting out the Board's financial position in detail at the 31st of March, 1951, together with the Auditor's report.

Policy

7. Like its predecessor the Board is charged with the duty of fostering the economic development of the Region and this it may do by making grants or loans for a variety of purposes. The Board is thus enabled to assist any person or body of persons engaged in schemes of public works, or the industrial development of Nigerian products or in developing village crafts and industries ; the Board can also assist in schemes of land settlement and agricultural and forestry development and can give aid to any experimental body investigating the potentialities of any Nigerian product. In addition to this the Chief Commissioner has the power to authorise the Board to give its assistance to any other scheme which he considers to be of public value within the general term of economic development.

8. Every application made to the Board, from whatever source it is received and whatever the status of the applicant, is considered in the light of these statutory requirements and on its own individual merits. If the scheme proposed does not fall within one of the specific categories which the Board is empowered to assist but at the same time it is thought that it would be of value to the economic development of the Region, the Board asks the Chief Commissioner to exercise his discretionary powers.

9. It will be seen from paragraph 5 above and from the balance sheet that the Board's funds are very strictly limited, and the Board cannot give assistance to every project proposed to it, even though it may fall within the Board's terms of reference and even though it may be thoroughly sound financially. In order that its funds may be spent to the best interests of the Region as a whole (as opposed to the interests of individuals) the Board has had to give consideration to the Region's priority requirements. The following extract from paragraph 7 of the 1949-50 Annual Report indicates the lines on which the Board has assessed these priorities :—

“Since, however, its funds are limited and the demand for assistance is ever-increasing, the Board has had to consider priorities. For example, food supplies and road transport are both of great economic importance, but the Board has had to rule that it will not ordinarily give assistance for the purchase of lorries because lorry services in the Region are already adequate. Food supplies, particularly of foods containing proteins, are, as is well known, often short and as will be seen from the section dealing with individual loans and grants much of the Board’s assistance has been given to projects that will improve the supply of foodstuffs. Again, although road transport services are adequate, the facilities for maintenance except in a very few centres, are poor and the Board has given assistance to persons in the motor repair trade in order to improve these facilities and so indirectly to provide more efficient road transport.”

10. However, by November, 1950, it became apparent that these priorities must be defined more closely. Applications for assistance were being received at the rate of three or more a day and it was estimated that outstanding applications exceeded £622,000 (which included £437,000 for major works by public bodies) ; obviously the Board could not entertain all these as after allowing for its existing commitments it had less than £70,000 available for further disbursement. Quite apart from financial considerations it was impossible for such a large number of applications to be fully investigated by District Officers and officers of the other departments, as must be done before the Board can give proper consideration to any proposal. The situation was considered at the December meeting and it was decided that the Board would not in the future give assistance to certain types of businesses or undertakings. This decision was taken on the following grounds :—

(i) Certain types of business require a low initial capital, but give quick and comparatively high returns. In this category were included :—

Rice Farming, small Sawyers Businesses (*i.e.* Pit-Sawying).

Necessary Development of this type of business should be possible without the Board’s assistance.

(ii) The Board was aware that there was always a ready market for the sale of certain types of equipment, and therefore considered there was no need for it to finance their purchase. In this category were included :—

Oil Palm Presses, Kernels Crackers, Motor Lorries and Buses.

Similarly there is no shortage of building and contracting firms or businesses, and it was therefore needless for the Board to lay out its funds in that direction.

(iii) Some types of business, although of a certain economic significance could not be considered of major importance for the economic development of the Region. Such types of business included :—

Furniture Making, Tailoring, Baking, all types of trading, whether retail or wholesale.

(iv) Pig Keeping, Poultry Farming.

The Board had already made a number of loans for these two purposes, but had received disquieting reports about the success of some of the ventures, and decided not to give further assistance in this direction until more was known about the success of its existing investments.

11. These decisions are not final and will be kept constantly under review in the light of increasing experience.

12. It is also the policy of the Board, generally speaking, to give assistance only to established businesses, or when the proposer is himself investing part of the capital required in the business. This it is hoped will ensure the greater degree of responsibility which may be expected in the management of a business the owner of which is himself financially involved in the business directly and personally. Save in the most exceptional circumstances, the Board does not make loans without security, for the Board has a responsibility to the public not only to preserve its funds, but to obtain from them a reliable income, with which it may continue to assist the economic development of the Region in the future.

Investigation and consideration of Applications

13. Prior to November all applications which fell within the Board's terms of reference were fully investigated before being placed before the Board. As has been explained above by November the amount of this work became too great to be dealt with by officers in the field. The Board therefore established a Committee to give preliminary consideration to all applications on the basis of the original information supplied by the applicants themselves. The Committee is composed of :—

The Secretary (Development), Eastern Provinces.

Mr P. E. Chukwurah.

The Regional Treasurer.

The Deputy Director of Agriculture.

Papers are circulated to members, who advise whether the proposal should be further investigated or whether the Board should be advised to reject the application.

14. When further investigation is recommended the applicant is asked to supply full information about his proposals and his existing business, on the lines of the Form set out in the Appendix to this report. The questions asked in this Form are not exclusive and are intended as a guide to applicants as to the type of information required. When this information is received advice is sought from District Officers and officers of the technical departments (usually Agricultural Officers and officers of the Department of Commerce and Industries). If the business is already in existence a statement of account is called for, and in all cases an estimate of the income and expenditure anticipated should a loan be made. Applicants are also required to inform the Board what security they can offer to cover the loan which they seek. When all this information has been received the proposal is placed before the full Board which considers it in the light of the policy set out in paragraphs 7 to 12 above.

Control of the use of Advances

15. When the Board makes a loan or a grant the person or body to whom the advance is made in the agreement covering the advance convenants with the Board to use the money he receives solely for the purpose for which it has been made available. The Board is empowered to inspect businesses to which money has

been advanced to ensure that it is properly used ; if necessary the Board may issue instructions on the way the business is to be run and these instructions must then be carried out; in extreme cases where the Board is satisfied that its money is not being used properly it may require the money to be repaid.

16. As was recorded in the first Annual Report, the Board has not unfortunately been able to engage any staff of its own to undertake these enquiries. Owing to the pressure of other work the Secretary has only been able to make one short tour of inspection when thirteen businesses were visited mostly in the Aba area. In addition it has been possible for the Secretary to make a few visits when he has been on tour on other duties.

Loans and Grants

17. All loans and grants approved by the Board are subject to the approval of the Chief Commissioner, and all loans of more than £10,000 and all outright grants must also be approved by the Standing Committee on Finance of the Eastern House of Assembly.

18. Before the beginning of the year under review the Board had made the following grants and loans :—

The Veterinary Department—a grant of £1,000 to finance an experimental scheme of cattle grazing on the Cameroons Mountain, the centre of the Bakweri Tribe land.

The Calabar-Manife Road Area Planning Authority—a grant of £3,186 which was the last instalment of a grant of £17,044 approved by the Nigeria Local Development Board.

Various loans totalling £22,082. (For details of the work of this authority, see below).

Ikot Ekpen Co-operative Raffia Marketing Society

This Society produces a variety of woven raffia goods of a very high standard, hand-bags, carpets, table-mats, etc. The loan of £750 was made to the Society to enable it to erect new buildings. For various reasons the Society has got into financial difficulties and its members have taken a decreasing interest in it. An inquiry is now being held into the question whether the Society should be wound up.

Port Harcourt Planning Authority

Two loans were made to the Authority. One of £16,500 to finance the development of the new Creek Road Lay-out and the other of £2,000 for a similar purpose in the smaller Hospital Road Lay-out. The Authority has been able to repay £10,000 of the principal of the first of these loans.

P. E. Uwem & Sons of Atabong Eket

This is a small partnership which before the loan of £400 was granted had been operating a saw-mill since 1933. The loan was used to purchase two new circular saws, a planing machine and other equipment, and to place the existing machinery on firm foundations. The Company sells its products to the Public Works Department and Native Administrations among other customers.

Ibez Trading, Industrial, Transport and Manufacturing Company, Limited

The principal ventures of this Onitsha firm are aptly described in its title. The Company received a loan of £4,000 to enable it to purchase a Pioneer Oil Mill at Amansi in the Awka Division. The mill was handed over to the Company by the Department of Commerce and Industries in 1948. Despite a promising start the mill does not now appear to be working to capacity.

E. U. O. Moody of Abak

Mr Moody is an ex-serviceman. With three partners also ex-servicemen he started a piggery but by 1949 his partners had ceased to take an active part in the business and he was able to buy them out. He received a loan of £200 which was used to complete the erection of new buildings and to provide capital to start poultry keeping. Reports received from the Agricultural Department in August suggested that Mr Moody was having difficulty in obtaining the necessary concentrated foodstuffs because of high transport costs.

Galega, Fon of Bali

The Fon of Bali, who is a Member of the Eastern House of Assembly, is an agriculturist in the Bamenda Province of the Cameroons. A loan of £200 was made to him to enable him to improve his piggery.

Mr J. V. Clinton of Calabar

Mr Clinton was greatly interested in the demonstration of sea-fishing carried out by the Fisheries Section of the Department of Commerce and Industries and he established a sea-fishing business of his own at Eket employing a nucleus of Gold Coast fishermen. He has several large canoes and used the loan of £600 to purchase a launch and nets and other equipment. The fish are sold in Calabar. The business started slowly, Mr Clinton paying wages to all his staff ; towards the end of the year the business was reconstituted on the profit-sharing basis common throughout the world for sea-fishing.

United Ex-servicemen's Motor Repair and Training Workshop, Aba

This is a small business set up by four ex-servicemen from their own resources in Aba ; it deals in general motor and mechanical repairs. The loan of £300 was made to the company to improve its equipment and buildings. The Secretary visited the business in November and reported to the Board :—

“These men are trying to do well and probably are succeeding financially. £55 of the loan was used to rebuild their shed and £45 to purchase a battery charger. The balance £200 went with their own savings into a new lorry (or good second-hand : it is not old). Their cash book shows a balance of £445 which I instructed should, at least in part, be spent on proper equipment.”
Unfortunately it has not been possible to follow up this visit.

Industry and Service Agency, Buguma

This business made an application to the Nigeria Local Development Board for assistance, who approved a loan of £400, which was subsequently paid by the Eastern Regional Development Board. The loan was made to enable the Agency

to start a piggery, but in November the Agency applied to the Board for a further loan of £300 reporting that all the original loan and their own capital had gone into the building which they were then unable to stock. The Board is considering this second application.

Mr A. A. Geh of Bambui, Bamenda

Mr Geh who is Headmaster of the Native Administration School at Bambui has a dairy herd of cows and a piggery, which he has brought up to a very high standard. The loan of £200 was utilised in improving the dairy in which he makes butter for sale to the general public and in repairing his piggery buildings.

Ibeneme and Sons Plantations, Port Harcourt

This partnership has several small plantations in the neighbourhood of Aba and Port Harcourt, growing oil palms, rubber, coffee, kola and coco-nut and carrying a certain amount of poultry. A loan of £500 was used to instal various types of equipment and to improve labourers' lines.

T. Wachuku Sawmill, Limited, Port Harcourt

This partnership operates a sawmill business in Port Harcourt, supplying timber on a contract basis to both Government Departments and private customers. A loan of £1,000 was spent on purchasing equipment, and improving the buildings to facilitate a quicker throughput.

Mr E. M. W. Epelle of Opobo

Mr Epelle is a retired civil servant and as a result of the demonstration of the Fisheries Section of Commerce and Industries has started an off-shore sea-fishing business at Opobo, using the large Gold Coast type of canoe. His bosun has been trained by the Fisheries Section and his crews are mainly Opobo men. The loan of £400 was used to start the business.

Onitsha Town Native Administration

The Otu-Onitsha Market is one of the largest markets in Nigeria. Despite the vast amount of trading undertaken in the market in all kinds and varieties of goods, the market is still contained in temporary sheds. The market stands on the banks of the Niger against the erosion of which there is no protection; there are no drains and no lock-up shops, which means that everyday every item of goods has to be brought to the market from stores and warehouses and taken back at night. The Onitsha Town Native Authority has decided to undertake, if possible, an ambitious scheme which will include provision of proper drainage, lock-up shops and a riverwall, but before this can be done it has been necessary to have a preliminary survey made by a firm of civil engineers.

The loan of £5,000 has been used for this purpose, and the survey was completed and plans drawn up during the year under review.

Local Authority, Enugu

The population of Enugu Township has for some time been increasing and the need for the laying out of new building estates has been apparent. The Board made a loan of £12,000 to assist in the laying out of the new Uwani Estate which

will have in the neighbourhood of 600 plots. The Enugu Planning Authority has recently taken over the scheme (although the Township remains financially responsible to the Board) and it is hoped to start work on the lay-out in June, 1951.

During the year under review the Board has made the following loans:—

Mr G. N. MacOliver of Enugu

Mr MacOliver, who is a government pensioner, used the loan he received of £560 to purchase the equipment of two cornmills. These are installed in Enugu and are doing very well.

Mr Oyibo Imegi of Ahoada

Mr Imegi completed a six months' course at Umudike farm and on his return built an eight pen piggery. The Board made a loan of £300 to help him stock the piggery, purchase concentrates and to build up a working capital.

Port Harcourt Town Council

The loan of £2,800 was made to the Council to cover the cost of erection of a block of lock-up shops.

Mr Martin N. N. Eke of Okputong, Bende

Mr Eke had a mixed plantation which included about 16 acres of oil palms and also areas of cocoa, kola, citrus and other trees, a total of 30 acres. In addition he had nurseries of seedlings with which to plant up further areas. The Board made him a loan of £300 to assist him to extend the plantation and to purchase an oil press.

Mr Monday A. Nwogwugwu of Aba

Mr Nwogwugwu has a poultry farm just outside Aba and received a loan of £750 to cover improvements. The loan was used to build an incubator house-cum-office and an underground rain water tank of between 1,500 and 2,000 gallons capacity. A certain amount of wire netting and timber has also been bought. Mr Nwogwugwu keeps good records and the business is believed to be doing well.

Mr J. B. Onwuasoanya of Aba

Mr Onwuasoanya is a roofing contractor and his loan of £400 was used to purchase a cement tile "press" and a small portable sawmill. The business was doing well until the shortage of cement occurred in October and the price rose.

Awka Co-operative Carvers Union, Limited

The Union received £200 from the Board of which £100 was an outright grant and this has enabled the Union to lay in a stock of timber for seasoning. The Union produces a high quality range of carved tables, chests, trays, etc.

Mr J. W. Evoh of Umuaro, Aba

Mr Evoh is a retired teacher and received a loan of £120 to help him start a poultry farm. The Secretary visited the farm in November and reported to the Board that Mr Evoh had made little use of the loan. At a subsequent visit no improvement was seen and the Board has issued a warning to Mr Evoh that if good use of the loan is not made it may be called in.

Mr Solomon I. Major of Ahoada

Mr Major is an employee of the Ahoada Native Authority and with the approval of his employer started fish farming in his spare time making fourteen small ponds in his compound. In addition to breeding fish he rears crocodiles for their meat. He needed assistance to expand the business by making more ponds and to stock them and the Board made him loan of £100. His success has led to a general interest in this type of food production in the neighbourhood.

Mr N. M. Bebe of Kumba

When Mr Bebe retired from Government service he had a large area of land which he wished to develop. His proposals were ambitious and allowed for the development of 1,000 acres with yam and other food crops, oil palms and large pig and poultry farms. In view of the shortage of foodstuffs in the Cameroons the Board considered this project would be most beneficial and made an advance to Mr Bebe of £5,000.

Mr D. E. S. Jumbo of Obohia, Aba

A loan of £660 was made to Mr Jumbo, to help him to improve his breeding of sheep and goats and to expand his existing palm plantation. Mr Jumbo was visited in November and it is understood that the remainder of the plantation has been cleared this year and erection of sheep pens has been started. The existing plantation is maintained in good order.

The Okobo Farming Society of Okobo, Eket

The partnership of which the principal is Mr E. O. Eyo subscribed £300 towards the building of a piggery but additional working capital was required and the Board made a loan of £200. Mr Eyo has been trained at the Government farm at Umudike.

Messrs V. F. O. Briggs and Partners of Abonnema

Mr Briggs and his partners have a large area of land near Bamenda which they wished to develop agriculturally. They built a small piggery and wished to start poultry farming but needed additional capital from the Board. A loan of £654 was made with which the piggery was enlarged and the poultry venture started.

Mr J. J. Ekpiken of Oron

Mr Ekpiken started a poultry farm in 1947 on his land at Oron and by 1949 was doing sufficiently well to wish to expand the business by rearing pigs as well, but had not sufficient capital. The Board made him a loan of £500 to cover the cost of building the piggery. Unfortunately reports received since the loan was paid suggest that the business is not as successful as might have been hoped.

Mr J. Ngu of Kumba

While still in Government service Mr Ngu successfully supervised the Native Authority Brick and Tile works at Kumba. On his retirement the works were sold to him, but he needed additional money for extra equipment and working capital and the Board made a loan to him of £1,000. Mr Ngu has a good market for his products and supplies Missions, Native Authorities and private persons.

L. N. Obioha Bros. of Oguta

A loan of £4,000 was made to the company to help them purchase a Pioneer Oil Mill at Oguta Lake, which was handed over to the company in January.

Mr F. K. Ockiya of Aba

Mr Ockiya received a loan of £1,000 to enable him to improve his piggery business. The money has been used to erect a new building on a better site where Mr Ockiya has about ten acres of land and grows some of his own fodder. When Mr Ockiya was visited in November, the building was almost complete and new stock from the Agricultural Department was expected by the beginning of December. The Secretary reported that the business appeared to be well run and since Mr Ockiya has a good market for his meat in Aba it is reasonable to expect him to be successful.

Mr L. Y. Nkenderum of Otampa, Okigwi

Mr Nkenderum is a Government pensioner who is now engaged in farming. In addition to ordinary farm work he keeps pigs and poultry under modern conditions. He needed extra capital to complete his piggery and to equip his poultry farm and the Board made him a loan of £300.

Mr A. Nwabueze of Enugu

Mr Nwabueze received a loan of £200 to help him to establish a pit sawing business, and should be doing well.

Chief T. O. M. Eruba of Akwete, Aba

Chief Eruba has used the loan of £300 to plant up twenty acres of palm plantation. This was not done in the first instance under the Agricultural Department's advice and much of the plantation had to be replanted.

Mr M. E. Ezenezi of Enugu

Mr Ezenezi has a small market garden in Enugu which he runs on approved lines. He used his loan of £150 to purchase a portable water pump and hose and has built four water storage tanks in the garden. The pump has not proved entirely satisfactory but Mr Ezenezi is doing well. The Board handled the import of the pump for Mr Ezenezi.

Nigeria Eastern Wealth of Mbawsi, Aba

This company has purchased a Pioneer Oil Mill at Mbawsi and received a loan of £5,250 towards the price. The mill was handed over to the company in October, but is not yet working to full capacity as there is a certain amount of suspicion locally. Mr Wachuku who is the principal partner, has a small plantation of 400 acres which will be a useful standby for the mill. A loan of £700 was also made to the company to cover the cost of a lorry which is to be used to evacuate produce.

Mr C. Anadu of Onitsha Town

The Board made a loan of £947 to Mr Anadu to help him to expand his weaving centre. Mr Anadu constructs his own looms and ancillary equipment

some of which he designs himself. He produces a good quality cloth. The Board has, however, been notified by his sureties that they are not satisfied with the conduct of his business and the Board is now investigating the matter.

Ikot Ekpene Ex-servicemen's Mechanic and Transport Association

This association of fourteen men undertakes motor repairs, blacksmithing and carpentry at Ikot Ekpene. At present the business is split up over three sites none of which is really satisfactory. A lease of a plot of Crown land is being obtained and the loan of £300 will be used to build a new workshop on this plot. The business was visited in November and appeared to be well run. The standard of carpentry was good.

Mr H. O. Ekeke of Azumini, Aba

Mr Ekeke has three small plantations at Azumini growing both oil palm and rubber trees. The palm plantation was badly overgrown and the loan of £350 will be used to put this into order and to plant up the remaining five acres.

Chief K. J. Dagogo-Jack of Degema

Chief Dagogo-Jack purchased a launch in the United Kingdom for service between Degema and Port Harcourt and other towns. The launch was damaged in transit and the damage was not fully covered by Insurance. The Board made a loan of £300 to cover the cost of putting the launch into commission.

Mr J. A. Mukete of Kumba

Mr Mukete has about fifty acres of cocoa, a small area of coffee and another large area under food crops. He received a loan of £500 to start a small piggery and to run a commercial flock of poultry and to rejuvenate his cocoa and coffee.

Erime Agwu Agwu, Oguta

This partnership of which Mr C. I. Nwapa is principal partner has about 100 acres of land at Oguta of which forty-four acres are already planted up with oil palms and in production. The plantation is well managed and is producing oil of 2½ per cent of F.F.A. with the use of hand presses. A loan of £2,000 was made to cover the cost of development of the remaining 56 acres.

Mr Bassey Akpan of Itu

Mr Akpan received a loan of £150 which has been used to purchase two outboard motors and canoes to start a ferry service on the Enyong Creek between Itu and Arochuku.

Okigwi Industrial Company, Okigwi

This company received a loan of £3,000 to assist it to purchase Amuro Pioneer Oil Mill near Okigwi. The mill was the first built by the Department of Commerce and Industries in the Eastern Provinces and was sold to the Company by the Eastern Regional Production Development Board in June, 1950. The mill is well run and is proving successful.

Mr R. N. Ayuk of Sumbe, Mamfe Division

Mr Ayuk has a small farm and cultivates cocoa, oil palms, rice and other crops. He also keeps pigs and poultry. He received a loan of £200 to help him make general improvements to the farm including the flyproofing of his piggery.

Mr B. A. Ajose of Enugu

Mr Ajose is a contractor, with considerable business connections in Enugu and other parts of Nigeria. He has carried out several electrical wiring contracts for Government and other bodies. He received a loan of £3,500 to help him build an electrical repair shop and service station at Enugu.

The Local Authority, Enugu

For many years the roads in Enugu have been in an extremely bad state and little or nothing had been done about it. Conditions at Enugu were worse than in some other towns because of the confused, hilly nature of the ground : erosion had done much damage to gutters and road surfaces. The Township has undertaken a scheme for the tarring of all roads in the Asata, Ogui and Coal Camp lay-outs and the provision of concrete drains, and the work has been put out to contract. The Board has approved a loan of up to £100,000 of which £50,000 has been advanced to date.

Mr F. A. Lele of Twon, Brass

Mr Lele is a pensioner who has taken an interest in the improved methods of sea-fishing now becoming known. He has received a loan of £200 as the capital necessary to find the equipment to start bonga and shark fishing.

Chionye Ani Hus and Company, Aba

This partnership has a small farm between Obohia and Aba. The farm is to be run as a market garden with a small citrus orchard and a poultry flock. The partners do not themselves live on the farm but it is in the charge of a relative who has had market gardening experience. A loan of £250 was made to put the farm in order and to cover the cost of a small incubator.

L. O. Okoro and Company of Aba

This company, whose headquarters are at Aba, has purchased the Pioneer Oil Mill at Aro Ndiuzuogu in Orlu Division. The mill was formally opened on the 6th January, 1951. To assist the company to purchase the mill the Board made a loan of £4,900.

Mr M. A. Abassah of Aba

Mr Abassah has a farm near Aba on which he grows bananas, citrus, kola, rubber, coffee, etc., he also has a good piggery and a number of sheep and goats in pens all of which are well cared for. He wished to increase the numbers of his livestock and expand his plantations but was unable to find the capital necessary particularly that for the new buildings for the pigs, etc. The Board made him a loan of £650.

Mr S. H. Igbelina of Omerum, Onitsha

The Board made a loan of £1,420 to Mr Igbelina to enable him to build and equip a rice mill at Omerum, which is one of the centres of the rice growing areas of Northern Onitsha Division. At the time of writing the mill is not yet complete.

Mr G. E. Ukpabioh and Partners of Uyo

This partnership makes aerated waters of various kinds and received a loan of £300 to cover the cost of additional equipment. The firm has agents in various parts of the Calabar Province.

Mr G. O. Ejimofor and Partners, Enugu

Mr Ejimofor and his partners are motor mechanics at Enugu undertaking general repair work. They received a loan of £500 to cover the cost of additional equipment and of improvements to their workshop.

Eastern Technical Company of Onitsha

This partnership of four had established a motor repair business in Onitsha on a good site. They had, however, no proper building and lacked equipment. A loan of £1,230 was made to help cover the cost of a new building and equipment.

Servicemen's General Repair Company of Onitsha

This is another partnership engaged in the motor repair trade. The partners were trained in the Trades Training Centre at Enugu and, having obtained a good site in Onitsha, were assisted by the Board to erect a workshop and purchase tools. They received a loan of £1,000 part of which was placed on deposit with one of the firms to cover the purchase of tools.

Eastern Press Syndicate, Enugu

This Syndicate is establishing a centre at Enugu which will carry large stocks of literature covering Community Development problems, village industries, etc. Stocks of office equipment which are not easily obtainable in the Region at present will also be carried. The Syndicate received a loan of £4,000.

Mr S. B. A. Atulomah of Umuabili near Umuahia

Mr Atulomah has a small poultry farm which he started on his own, but he was unable to equip it properly without assistance and a loan of £150 was made to him for this purpose.

Mr A. O. Udeorah of Ogidi, Onitsha

Mr Udeorah is a skilled weaver and is establishing a large centre at Ogidi, which will eventually employ up to ten weavers working on hand looms and other necessary equipment. The building will cost about £2,000 and a loan of £600 was made towards this sum. Mr Udeorah produces a high quality heavy-type cloth.

Mr F. Dibia of Obowo, Okigwi

Mr Dibia took a course in agriculture at the Government farm, Umudike, and on completion started farming, specialising in pig-keeping. He had, however, insufficient capital to build a fully fly proof piggery and applied to the Board for assistance. A loan of £300 was made to him.

Mr D. Asirim of Ahoada

Mr Asirim was also trained at Umudike, but specialised in poultry farming, which he was able to start with his own capital. He received a loan of £200 to enable him to expand the business.

19. A number of other loans have been approved by the Board but payment has not been made as yet, generally because of difficulties which have arisen in obtaining satisfactory security. These commitments total £92,432.

The Calabar Mamfe Road Area Planning Authority

20. This Authority was established under the Nigeria Town and Country Planning Ordinance to control the land settlement scheme known as the Bamenda Cross River Calabar Scheme (the B.C.C. Scheme). The scheme is an experiment in the settlement of people from the over-populated areas of the Eastern Provinces in the empty areas to the north of Calabar along the new Calabar-Mamfe road.

21. A first experimental settlement was established at mile 25 on the road with eight families in December, 1945, and was financed by two loans of £240 and £182 and since then the main settlement has taken in 118 settler-families (the original proposal being for 200 families).

22. The scheme was financed by the Nigeria Local Development Board who made a grant of £17,044 to the Authority, an interest free loan of £8,860 and an interest bearing loan of £13,222. The grant was to cover the cost of the acquisition of the land, junior supervisory staff, demonstration and health services. The first loan was to cover the cost of preparing 1,000 acres of oil palm and the purchase of hand presses. The second loan was primarily intended to make it possible to finance the settlers in remunerative farming by making small loans to them of £60 each and also to enable the Authority to purchase and operate its own motor transport.

23. These figures were based on estimates drawn up in 1947, but since then wages and salaries have greatly increased. Another difficulty encountered has been in the maintenance of the palm plantations up to the bearing stage. The original scheme provided for each family to receive two acres of land near its house, ten acres of farming land and five of cultivated oil palm, when it reached the bearing state, which is promised to each settler under his contract with the Authority. Thus the Authority is under an obligation to maintain over 600 acres of oil palms; it had been intended that the settlers should themselves maintain their future plots free of any charge and without wages but they have shown no inclination to do so probably because of the hard work involved in clearing their farm land and the Authority had been compelled to employ labourers for this purpose.

24. For this reason and also because of the ever increasing costs of labour and materials, the funds of the Authority were exhausted by the end of the year 1949-50. Consequently it has been necessary to revise the scheme considerably in order that it might be continued and the following decisions have been made and put into effect :—

- (i) The settlement to be limited to the number of settler families as on the 31st March, 1950, i.e., a total of 126 families.
- (ii) The area released by this limitation to be leased to the Eastern Regional Production Development Board. The Production Board pays a rent of £150 per annum for the area which totals 3,000 acres and has also reimbursed the Authority with the development cost of the area at the rate of £16 per acre totalling £10,480. The area now forms the Board's Kwa Falls Estate.

- (iii) The Authority to refund to the Board the portion of the interest bearing loan of £13,040 no longer required to finance loans to the settlers. A sum of £4,622 has been received by the Board in this way.
- (iv) The Authority to clear and plant an area of 500 acres for oil palms to assure its own income for the future.
- (v) The Board to make to the Authority a free grant of £31,756 and an interest free loan of £10,874 to cover respectively the expenses of administration and social services and development.

25. During the year under review all the land required for the settlers palm plots has been cleared and a part of the Authority's 500-acre estate. A Community Centre has been laid out and a shop, dispensary and community hall were nearing completion at the end of the year. Sites have been reserved for the Lutheran Mission School which wishes to move to the centre, a maternity home and a sports ground : the Roman Catholic Mission school already adjoins the community centre.

26. There has been some criticism, not only in Nigeria, of the high cost of the scheme, and this might be justified if consideration were given only to the scheme itself. But perhaps the greatest achievement has been the provision of a ready made nucleus to what is now a rapidly growing community. The Authority has been able to offer a considerable amount of employment not only to the settlers themselves but also to a large number of casual labourers, many of whom have settled in the nearby villages of Amingeje and Mfamosing which have both expanded considerably in the last year. There is a good market and a quantity of foodstuffs is exported to Calabar in addition to palm produce. Recent reports show that the two schools have very nearly 200 regular pupils but by no means all the children in the settlement and the two villages attend school. Before the settlement was started the two villages had a total population of between twenty and thirty taxable males. There are now estimated to be over 1,000 taxable males in the area.

27. The Board also made two loans to the Authority in 1949-50 for minor industries. For making agricultural lime the Authority received a loan of £1,200, which was refunded during the year under review as the project was found to be impracticable. A second loan of £5,150 was made to start a furniture making business which would utilise the excellent timber available after clearing ; transport difficulties and other factors have made the success of this project uncertain, and only a very limited amount of furniture is made, the saws being utilised mostly for cutting building timber which is more easily transported.

GENERAL

28. As last year, the Board has continued to make use of the facilities of the Regional Secretariat and for lack of office accommodation has been unable to employ any staff of its own. The Assistant Secretary, Development, has continued to act as Secretary.

29. The Board wishes to acknowledge the assistance given particularly by District Officers and Agricultural Officers in investigating applications and from time to time where necessary reporting on the progress of ventures the Board has assisted.

INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS FOR A LOAN FROM THE
EASTERN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Information is required in full detail on the following points :—

1. Name and Address of Applicant.
2. Is Applicant—
 - (a) An Individual ?
 - (b) An Association of Individuals ?
 - (c) A Company registered under the Companies Ordinance ? If so, give details of registration certificate.
 - (d) If Applicant uses a "Business Name" give details of registration under Business Names Ordinance.
3. If an Association or Company give full names of partners.
4. Present activities of Applicant.
5. Brief history of the business to date.
6. Amount of loan requested, and proposed interest rate and period of repayment.
7. Details of security, if any, offered for the loan.
8. Objects on which loan is to be spent supported by estimates.
9. Where business is already established a copy of the profit and loss account for the last twelve months is required.
10. In the case of a new business the amount of capital to be invested from sources other than the Board.
11. Nature of Applicant's title to the land on which project is to be carried out.
12. Notes by appropriate officer (e.g. Agricultural Officer, for an agricultural project) on probable economic success of the project.
13. Note on the financial standing of Applicant and the value of security offered (e.g. permanent buildings, land, etc.).
14. Recommendation of forwarding officer.

N.B.—These questions are intended as a guide and are not necessarily comprehensive : any other information relevant to the application but not covered by the items above should also be supplied.

PART II

Report on the Audit of the Accounts of the Eastern Regional Development Board for the year ended 31st March, 1951

The Balance Sheet as at the 31st March, 1951, of the Eastern Regional Development Board together with the Income and Expenditure Account for 1950-51 and the Schedules of Grants and Loans have been examined.

2. It will be observed that the manner, in which the Schedule of Loans is drawn up, has been altered so as to provide information as to the dates when the first repayments fall or fell due, the amount of the interest currently received, due or accrued, and the amounts of principal outstanding exclusive of such repayments as may be overdue.

3. It will also be observed that the practice of determining interest on the basis of actuals and thus varying the amount of principal contained in each annual repayment has been discontinued, and that in consequence, several excess credits to income in respect of interest received in previous financial years have been adjusted by debit to expenditure for the year under review. Both principal and interest are now accounted as constants throughout the period of repayment in accordance with the various loan agreements.

ASSETS

4. *Loans Outstanding.*—(i) Of the balance of the loan of £13,040 outstanding against the Calabar Mamfe Road Area Planning Authority as at the 1st April, 1950, £4,622 was repaid on the 1st November, 1950. The terms of repayment as set out in paragraph 7 (b) of the Schedule to Order-in-Council No. 37 of 1948 have in consequence been varied, and they now provide for repayments at the rate of £340, £470 and £470 as at the 31st March, 1951, 1952 and 1953 respectively and for accrued interest as at the 31st March, 1954, which will amount to £1,144, together with the balance of principal outstanding as at that date to be repaid on the 31st March, 1954, and over the ensuing thirteen years with two per cent interest at the rate of £631 4s 11d per annum.

(ii) An amount of £10,000 out of the loan of £16,500 made to Port Harcourt Planning Authority in 1948 was repaid on the 31st December, 1950, and the loan agreement has been varied to provide for the repayment of the balance outstanding with three per cent interest at the rate of £436 18s 0d per annum over twenty years with effect from the 17th July, 1951.

(iii) The first instalmental repayment of the loan of £3,000 that was made to the Okigwi Industrial Company in June, 1950, was received in October, 1950, although not due till June, 1951. The amount of principal outstanding as at the 31st March, 1951, is in consequence shown as having been reduced by the amount of the repayment. The interest proportion of the repayment, however, which amounts to £60 14s 5d, has in accordance with normal accounting procedure been credited to "Sundry Creditors."

(iv) All the repayments of principal shown as overdue in the Schedule of Loans have since been received.

5. *Sundry Debtors.*—(i) All the interest shown as overdue in the Schedule of Loans has since been received.

(ii) With reference to paragraph 5 of the 1949-50 Report, the negotiations that have been entered into with the Ibez Trading Company in regard to settlement of the debt of £1,365 15s 5d do not appear as yet to have met with any success.

(iii) The interest due on the amount of £10,000 referred to in paragraph 4 (ii) of this Report has been underpaid by an amount of £10 9s 7d, and there is an amount of £10 owing in respect of the stamp duty on a mortgage effected on behalf of the recipient of a loan. Both are included in the total "Miscellaneous."

6. *Cash with Accountant-General.*—The balance of £137,102 17s 0d on deposit with the Accountant-General has been agreed with the amount that is recorded in the the Regional Treasurer's books.

LIABILITIES

7. *Sundry Creditors.*—The liability of £86 5s 7d includes the advance payment of interest made by the Okigwi Industrial Company, to which reference is made in paragraph 4(iii) of this Report, £20 9s 0d in subsistence and travelling allowances, which on the 31st March, 1951, were owing to two members of the Board, and an amount of £5 2s 2d overpaid by the Eastern Regional Production Development Board on the loan of £91,013 8s 0d referred to in paragraph 4 of the 1949-50 Report, which was repaid in full on the 30th June, 1950. The advance payment of interest has since been credited to income, the allowances have been paid, and the interest received in excess from the Eastern Regional Production Development Board has been refunded.

AUTHORITIES

8. All loans and grants made by the Board up to the 31st March, 1951, have been duly authorised by the Board and approved by His Honour the Chief Commissioner.

9. The Standing Committee on Finance of the Eastern House of Assembly has approved the grants of £13,073 and £100 that have been made to the Calabar Mamfe Road Area Planning Authority and to the Awka Co-operative Carvers Union. It has also approved the loan of £50,000 that has been made to the Local Authority, Enugu, and given retrospective approval to the loan and the grant that are referred to in paragraph 7 of the 1949-50 Report.

R. N. Seeman,
for Director of Audit

EASTERN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

BALANCE SHEET, 31ST MARCH, 1951

LIABILITIES	£	s	d	ASSETS	£	s	d
DEVELOPMENT GRANT AS AT 31-3-50 ..	351,328	13	1	LOANS OUTSTANDING AT 31-3-51 (see Schedule) ..	162,560	14	0
Less Grants made during 1950-51 (see Schedule) ..	13,173	0	0	SUNDRY DEBITORS :			
	338,155	13	1	Overdue Interest ..	142	18	10
SUNDRY CREDITORS	86	5	7	Ibez Trading Company ..	1,365	15	5
				Miscellaneous	21	8	2
				ACCRUED INTEREST	1,530	2	5
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT :					726	9	8
Excess of Income over Expenditure ..	7,257	8	7	CASH :			
				At Bank	43,579	4	2
				With Accountant-General ..	137,102	17	0
	£345,499	7	3		180,682	1	2
					£345,499	7	3

Examined :
J. K. Buchanan,
Director of Audit

H. M. WHITTINGTON,
Secretary

H. F. P. WETHERELL,
Chairman

5th December, 1951

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Debit

	£	s	d	£	s	d	<i>Credit</i>
ALLOWANCES TO BOARD MEMBERS:							
Subsistence	56	14	0				£ 4,078 13 11
Travelling	27	13	6				2,393 2 7
OFFICE ADMINISTRATION:							
Office Equipment	66	3	7				9 0 0
Stamp Duties	56	16	0				6 0 0
Stationery	42	15	0				128 1 4
Miscellaneous	2	4	3				30 0 0
BANK CHARGES	167	18	10				11 7 9
ADJUSTMENT OF INTEREST ON SONDRY LOANS:							
Calabar Mamfe Road Area Planning Authority	4	6	1				240 0 0
P. E. Uvern	8	4	9				100 0 0
Ibez Trading Company	106	2	8				235 10 4
United Ex-servicemen's Motor Repairs and Training Workshop	3	12	5				
Local Authority, Enugu	106	1	10				986 9 0
Galega II, Fon of Bali	2	6	7				339 11 8
T. Nwachuku Sawmills, Ltd.	12	10	10				
Onitsha Town Native Authority	39	4	2				
OVERPAYMENT OF INTEREST BY EASTERN REGIONAL PRODUCTION DEVELOPMENT BOARD	282	9	4				
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE:							
(Transferred to Balance Sheet)	5	2	2				
	7,257	8	7				£7,797 17 2
				£7,797	17	2	

SCHEDULE OF GRANTS

Calabar-Mamfe Road Area Planning Authority	£	13,073
Awka Co-operative Carvers Union, Limited	100	
	<u>£</u>	<u>13,173</u>

SCHEDULE OF LOANS

Borrower	Date of first Repayment	Amount	Rate of Interest	Loan outstanding at 31-3-50	Repayment of principal 1950-51	Overdue Repayment of principal 1950-51	Loan outstanding at 31-3-51	Interest received 1950-51	Interest accrued or overdue at 31-3-51
		£		£	£	£	£	£ s d	£ s d
Ikot Ekpene Rafia Society	1-1-51	750	Free	750	—	150	750	—	—
Calabar Mamfe Road Area Planning Authority.	31-3-48	13,040	1 per cent for two years then 2 per cent.	12,800	5,022	340	7,778	—	726 9 8
do.	do.	240	Free	216	12	12	204	—	—
do.	do.	182	2 per cent	163 16s	9 2s	9 2s	154 14s	2 0 8	—
do.	do.	8,620	Free	7,758	431	—	7,327	—	—
Port Harcourt Planning Authority.	14-6-51	2,000	3 per cent	2,000	—	—	2,000	—	—
do.	do.	16,500	3 per cent	16,500	10,000	—	6,500	216 0 0	—
P. E. Uvrem & Sons	24-2-50	4,000	3½ per cent	400	160	—	240	17 3 0	7 0 0
Ibez Trading Company	26-11-49	4,000	3 per cent	3,600	400	—	3,200	80 19 4	—
E. U. O. Modiy	11-1-51	200	3 per cent	200	—	—	200	—	—
Galega, Fon of Bali	11-1-50	200	3 per cent	200	40	—	160	3 15 5	—
J. V. Clinton	11-1-51	600	3 per cent	600	—	—	600	—	—
Calabar Mamfe Road Area Planning Authority.	11-1-51	5,150	2 per cent	5,150	—	—	5,150	—	—
do.	do.	1,200	2 per cent	1,200	—	—	—	24 0 0	—
United Ex-servicemen's Motor Repairs & Training Workshop.	11-1-50	300	3 per cent	300	50	—	250	5 7 7	—
Industry & Service Agency	1-1-52	400	2 per cent	400	—	—	400	—	—
A. A. Gebh.	1-2-52	200	3 per cent	200	—	—	200	—	—
Ibereme and Sons Plantations.	1-2-52	500	3 per cent	500	—	—	500	—	—
T. Nwachuku Sawmills	1-2-51	1,000	3 per cent	1,000	125	—	875	17 9 2	—
E. M. W. Epelle	1-2-52	400	3 per cent	400	—	—	400	—	—
Onitsha Town Native Authority.	22-2-51	5,000	2 per cent	5,000	1,000	—	4,000	60 15 10	—
Local Authority, Enugu	23-3-51	12,000	2 per cent	12,000	—	800	12,000	—	133 18 2
G. N. MacOliwer.	15-4-51	560	3 per cent	—	—	—	560	—	—
Oyibo Imegi	1-5-52	300	3½ per cent	—	—	—	300	—	—
Port Harcourt Town Council	1-5-51	2,800	3 per cent	—	—	—	2,800	—	—
Martin N. N. Eke	14-5-51	300	—	—	—	—	300	—	—
Monday A. Nwogwuwu	1-5-51	750	3 per cent	—	—	—	750	—	—
J. R. Onwusuonyia	1-5-51	400	3 per cent	—	—	—	400	—	—
Awka Co-operative Carvers Union, Limited.	1-5-51	100	2 per cent	—	—	—	100	—	—
J. W. Ewoh	10-5-51	120	3 per cent	—	—	—	120	—	—
Solomon I. Major	10-5-51	100	3 per cent	—	—	—	100	—	—
N. M. Bebe	10-5-52	5,000	3 per cent	—	—	—	5,000	—	—
D. E. S. Jumbo	1-5-52	660	3 per cent	—	—	—	660	—	—

SCHEDULE OF LOANS

Borrower	Date of first Repayment	Amount	Rate of Interest	Loan outstanding at 31-3-50	Repayment of principal 1950-51	Overdue Repayment of principal 1950-51	Loan outstanding at 31-3-51	Interest received 1950-51	Interest accrued or overdue at 31-3-51
Okobo Farming Society ..	10-5-51	200	3 per cent	..	..	..	200	..	..
V. F. O. Briggs & Partners ..	21-5-51	654	3 1/2 per cent	..	..	..	654	..	..
J. Ekpiken ..	1-6-52	500	3 per cent	..	..	..	500	..	..
J. Ngu ..	1-6-51	1,000	3 per cent	..	..	..	1,000	..	..
L. N. Obioba & Brothers ..	1-6-51	4,000	3 per cent	..	..	..	4,000	..	..
F. K. Okiya ..	1-6-51	1,000	3 per cent	..	..	..	1,000	..	..
L. Y. Nkenderum ..	5-7-51	300	3 per cent	..	..	..	300	..	..
A. Nwabueze ..	10-7-51	200	3 per cent	..	..	..	200	..	..
I. M. O. Eruba ..	10-7-51	300	3 per cent	..	..	..	300	..	..
M. E. Ezeneci ..	12-7-51	150	2 per cent	..	..	..	150	..	..
Nigeria Eastern Wealth ..	2-8-51	5,250	3 per cent	..	..	..	5,250	..	..
L. Amadu ..	15-8-51	947	3 per cent	..	..	..	947	..	..
Ikot Ekpen Ex-service- men's Mechanic & Trans- port Association.	1-8-51	300	3 per cent	..	..	..	300	..	..
H. O. Ekeke ..	20-8-53	350	3 per cent	..	..	..	350	..	..
K. J. Digofo Jack ..	1-9-51	300	3 per cent	..	..	..	300	..	..
J. A. Nkukere ..	12-9-51	500	3 per cent	..	..	..	500	..	..
Erime Agwu Agwu ..	1-10-51	2,000	3 per cent	..	..	..	2,000	..	..
Bassay Akpan ..	1-11-51	150	3 per cent	..	..	..	150	..	..
Okigwi Industrial Co. ..	1-6-51	3,000	3 1/2 per cent	..	300	..	2,700	..	..
R. N. Ayuk ..	1-11-51	200	3 per cent	..	..	..	200	..	..
B. A. Ajose ..	18-10-51	3,500	3 per cent	..	..	..	3,500	..	..
Local Authority, Enugu ..	20-10-51	50,000	2 per cent	..	..	..	50,000	..	..
F. A. Lela ..	1-12-51	200	3 per cent	..	..	..	200	..	..
Calabar Mamfe Road Area Planning Authority.	1-11-51	7,681	Free	..	..	..	7,681	..	..
Nigeria Eastern Wealth ..	1-12-51	700	5 per cent	..	..	..	700	..	..
Chionye Ani Hus. Co. ..	1-12-51	250	3 per cent	..	..	..	250	..	..
L. O. Okoro & Co. ..	1-12-51	4,900	3 1/2 per cent	..	..	..	4,900	..	..
M. A. Abasah ..	15-12-51	650	3 per cent	..	..	..	650	..	..
S. H. Igbelina ..	20-12-51	1,420	3 per cent	..	..	..	1,420	..	..
G. E. Ukpabioh & Partners ..	20-12-51	300	3 per cent	..	..	..	300	..	..
Ejiofor & Partners ..	1-1-52	500	3 per cent	..	..	..	500	..	..
Eastern Technical Co. ..	1-2-52	1,230	3 per cent	..	..	..	1,230	..	..
Service-men's General Re- pairs Company.	1-1-52	1,000	3 per cent	..	..	..	1,000	..	..
Eastern Press Syndicate ..	16-2-51	4,000	3 per cent	..	..	..	4,000	..	..
S. B. A. Aulomah ..	10-2-52	150	3 per cent	..	..	..	150	..	..
A. O. Udoorah ..	1-2-52	600	3 per cent	..	..	..	600	..	..
F. Dibia ..	20-3-52	300	3 per cent	..	..	..	300	..	..
D. Astrim ..	10-3-53	200	3 per cent	..	..	..	200	..	..



