

The  
Nigerian Chronicle.

No. 41. Vol. VI.

September 5, 1947.

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Let

**THE NIGERIAN CHRONICLE**

*A weekly review of progress in politics, economic, and commerce; and of general news especially as affecting Nigeria*

Edited by CHRIS. JOHNSON

Publishing Office:

**Kumolu House  
Shitta Street, Lagos,  
Nigeria.**

**Post Office Box No. 259**

To Subscribers.—In the work of gathering news and notes on current events the Editorial Department of THE NIGERIAN CHRONICLE solicits the co-operation of subscribers and advertisers from whom they will always be pleased to receive information, personal or general, likely to interest readers.

To Advertisers.—THE NIGERIAN CHRONICLE is published every Friday. To ensure insertion in the current issue, copy of alterations for advertisements should arrive at the publishing Office, at 8. a. m. of Wednesday. Advertising rates are furnished on application.

**All communications to be addressed to the Editor, at the publishing office**

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

HOME 12s. ABROAD 15s including postage

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NEWS OF THE WEEK

HOME.

**TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS AND THE PUBLIC TO WHOM WE HAVE MADE A PROMISE:—**

We take this opportunity to say that we are unable to redeem our pledge in this issue because we have been told not to publish anything of the nature of the matter of what appeared in our issue of the 28th August 1914.

His Excellency Sir FREDERICK JOHN DEALTRY LUGARD, G.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., Governor-General of the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria returned to Lagos from England on Wednesday the 2nd instant.

The following draft statute, which will in due course be presented as a Bill to the Legislative Council and enacted for the Protectorate by the Governor, has been published for general information:—"A Bill entitled an Ordinance to provide for the Reference and Submission of Disputes to Arbitration."

It has been officially announced that all British subjects visiting Dakar and its neighbourhood must on arrival report themselves with the least possible delay to the British Consul at that place.

It has been officially announced that the prohibition of the exportation of foodstuffs from the United Kingdom to British possessions and Protectorate has been withdrawn as from the 31st August.

The return of Vital Statistics for the month of July 1914 for the town of Lagos and Ebute Metu shows 225 Births as against 217 Deaths, the latter figures include 97 infants under 1 year.

FROM THE EDITOR'S POST BAG.

**"No Editor or Proprietor of a paper who permits such matter to be published as is the case with your issue of the 28th August can be deemed to be a loyal, dutiful and obedient servant of His Majesty," and I have only to add that I confirm in this letter what I told you this morning....."**

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**Oats And Barley If Wheat Falls.**

In considering the harvest prospects, the public interest centres chiefly in wheat, but barley and oats are far from being negligible quantities at times of scarcity. If necessity should arise for conserving the national food supplies both of these cereals could be made to serve as valuable supplementary commodities. Indeed, if the price of wheat or flour were to rise to a level out of proportion to the buying ability of any class of the community, the hardship might be sensibly relieved by recourse to the alternative foodstuffs, so long as they are relatively cheaper. At any rate, barley and oats are entitled to be regarded as useful reserves in the event of wheat giving out or attaining exorbitant prices.

**Economies—Wise And Foolish.**

Everyone is thinking of some economy or other to help him to meet advanced prices and decreased income. Not all of these are wise. Some are cruel and foolish; as, for instance, the rich man at Wimbledon who immediately cut down his servants to one maid, or the villa people who have suddenly dismissed their gardener and let their gardens run wild. A sensible economy, which some people are undertaking, is to grow vegetables in their gardens, and to keep on the jobbing gardener. Many housewives are buying fruit and making large quantities of jam, which will allow them to defy the butter merchants. Many people are giving up breakfast coffee, and bacon as a delicacy reserved for Sunday. Coloured collars and shirts, which wear longer, and soft collars, which can be washed at home, are economies very patent in the streets just now. An act that is not an economy except in the large sense of the word was begun yesterday (says the London correspondent of the "Manchester Guardian") by a man in Gray's Inn. He gave up having coffee for breakfast, but kept on the milk as usual, sending it to an infant in a by-street whom his charwoman knew.—From the Evening News.

# The Nigerian Chronicle.

## In Times of Need.

"Necessity," so goes the saying, "is the mother of invention." And it is true of nations as it is of individuals that their many devices in the different works of life are the results of their needs. A nation's needs are not something that can be cast as a piece of lead and kept there for ever; although it is true that needs, just as desires, are among things that can be created and there are different ways of creating them. Needs are not needs unless they are regarded as such by those for whom they are created. It is not true to say that what a nation's needs are today that it shall always be. Needs as educts from living and rational beings possessed of the power of adaptation grow as men seek to [understand Dame Nature, and to "subdue and replenish the earth"—that is the environments about them. For a need to grow and bear good fruit, for it to serve a useful purpose and be really a need, it should not be forced. Growth in living things is never forced but takes place spontaneously; and for that growth, the necessary elements of development are always present. And so in the case of need. For its development in a way that shall be satisfactory to its creator it must not only fall on good ground but must find in the soil intended for it an atmosphere congenial, and agreeable. In a word the nation for whom a need is created ought readily to take to it only after it has acknowledged and been convinced that such a need is compatible with its progress and continued existence.

Leaving the abstract and turning to the concrete we find that a need is something a man wants and cannot get at the very moment he wants it. There is a proverb in Yoruba to the effect that what a man seeks for (that is, his needs) is always the guide to the attainment of higher wisdom. It matters very little whether those needs be few or many for that moment. That a people's needs consist of one or two things now, does not mean to say that they will always be limited to those numbers. Life itself being a "change" men are called upon by the nature of their existence to adapt themselves to the varying conditions.

A time of war is a time of change and adaptation, of "hardship and scarcity." It has always been a time when men's wants become difficult of attainment. This fact is supported by the following statement of the Acting Governor of the Gold Coast extracted from his proclamation to the Chiefs and their Peoples of the Gold Coast and its Dependencies.

"It may be some time before ships can safely come to our shores and bring provisions, therefore, let the Chiefs order their people to grow native foodstuffs in abundance so that there may be no famine. Let markets be regularly held..... Let the fishermen go out daily in their canoes and keep the markets well supplied with fish."

A time of war is a time of need when nations and individuals have to bring the utmost in them for the highest

Let us take a provision such as sugar which before the present crisis was sold at from 2/3d to 2/9d a case of from 12 to 14 lbs. It is a matter of common knowledge that on or about the 3rd day of August the price of this foodstuff had risen to as high as 10/- per case of the same quantity. Needless to say that every individual knows that Sugar is manufactured from the Sugar cane a tropical plant which grows luxuriantly in our part of West Africa. The simplest process for obtaining Sugar from this plant we cannot dwell upon in the course of this article. What however we intend to point out here by this particular reference is the development that has been made in the manufacture of this product in time of need.

The observation was first made by Marggraf, an Apothecary, who was trying to produce alcohol, that beet-roots contain Sugar. This plant is a tuber just as our potatoes (Koko and Odunkun) and is peculiar to the temperate climate. Schemes for the extraction of the contained sugar of the Beet was put forward in 1769 which was not commercially successful. During the blockade of Napoleon I of 1806 a decree was made forbidding the importation of Sugar into France. The price of this commodity, which then came principally from the West Indies, a tropical country, rose to 5/- per lb. The French Government seeing the need that there was for Sugar offered a prize of a million francs for the most successful method of producing it from an indigenous material, that is from a raw substance that could be had in France. Beet root was the raw material to which most aspirants to this prize turned their attention which was then sold at about 6d per cwt. This circumstance is responsible today for the World's trade in Beet Sugar which had risen in 1901 to 5,950,000 tons Avoirdupois averaging a price of 11/6d per cwt. The industry is now spread throughout Great Britain, France, Holland, Germany, America and the other manufacturing centres of the world. We may here remark that Beet Sugar is not as sweet as Cane Sugar but compares more favourably with Dextrose or Starch Sugar.

The present unfortunate War in Europe and its effects in the rise of the price of foodstuffs has brought back to our recollection certain articles of foodstuff which had been prepared locally and can be improved upon to take the place of imported products in time of need. Take the case of Sugar for instance. There has been in use among us some years ago a locally manufactured Chocolate from the Sugar Cane called *Oyin ata* and used as sweetener. It may not be known that this article of Native product is crude sugar from which the Molasses, the organic salts, fixed acids, and some contained Albumen have not been separated. If only we can sum up all the wisdom and efforts in us to find a way of purifying this crude home-made product, especially at this time of our need, we may be adding thereby to the world's knowledge and progress. The question of expeditiousness in cane crushing can be taken up by our Engineers who have shown themselves as possessed of the inventive faculty.

Another foodstuff of foreign import which is popularized by time is BREAD. There was a time when a threepenny loaf is the least obtainable, and when it could be found only on the table of the well-to-do—the majority cultivating no taste for it. Because of the

Continued on page 6



Father Vogt the sub-deacon the Rev. Father Langel and the Master of Ceremonies the Rev. Father S. Woodley.

The service was very impressive. The dark vestments of the Sacred Ministers, the black drapery on the walls, the altar without flowers of any kind, the solemn tone of the Organ and the Cantalque with its numerous burning lamps presented a scene at once sad and impressive. The rendering of the "Pie Jesu" after the Elevation by Mr. G. G. in his usual baritone voice was splendid. Among those present were His Honour the Governor's Deputy, A. G. Boyie Esq., C.M.G. The Honourable Colonel H. C. Moorhouse Esq., C.M.G. Secretary Southern Provinces, The Honourable T. D. Maxwell Acting Attorney-General, J. A. de G. Esq. Acting Principal King's College, The Honourable R. Noel, Commissioner of Police, Madame Bernard, Messrs. Fitz Patrick, Marine Department, Bureau, Secretariat, Noland, Treasury, Serge... C. Dark, Confidential Clerk Secretariat, and Lieut. W. F. Dowling, R.E. Surveyor, J. R. Shanu Esq., Barrister J. A. Payne Reverend, Ologundudu &c. &c.

After the Mass the following Panegyric was given by the Rev. Father Hermann one of the most energetic Priests in the Catholic Mission of Lagos.

The Spirit says:— *They may rest from their labours, for their works follow them. Apoc. XIV. 13.*

My Lord,

Reverend Fathers,

Your Honours,

My dear Brethren,

Last Thursday amongst the startling telegrams which reach Lagos every day since some time, there was one which was at once communicated to the Catholic Mission through the kind courtesy of the Honourable Colonel H. C. Moorhouse, C.M.G. Secretary Southern Provinces.

It brought us the sad news of the death of PIUS X, the Vicar of Jesus Christ, the 258th successor of St. Peter in the See of Rome, the sovereign Pontiff of the Catholic Church, in the 11th Year of his Pontificate.

This event has filled every catholic with two feelings. We were grieved at the loss of our spiritual Father of one who has endeared himself to the whole world by his constant effort to bring us nearer to God.

But at the same time we had a new occasion of expressing our faith and confidence in our Church for although we see its Pastors pass away, we know that the Church can never pass away, what is built on a rock, that it has eternal promises and that the 1800 years of its past, prove that truly the powers of Hell cannot prevail against it.

As we are assembled here in order to honour the memory of Pius X, I will in a few words explain:—

i. That throughout his whole life he has been a man of superior abilities, and

ii. That his Pontificate has been filled with acts which stamp on him the mark of a powerful promoter of the spiritual life inside the church, while his predecessor LEO XIII has been conspicuous especially on the ground of the social questions.

Joseph Sarto, this was the name of Pius X before his elevation to the Apostolic See, was born in the year 1855 at Riese, on the frontier of Austria and Italy.

His father held an office in the Municipal Board of that town. The family was of a common condition, richer in christian virtues than in wealth.

The intelligence of the young Sarto was so quick that at the age of eleven he was able to be admitted to the college of Castel-trance, a neighbouring town and such was then his love for learning that he walked every day four miles to attend that school.

At the age of sixteen he was admitted into the Seminary of Padua, where he studied all branches of ecclesiastical and secular sciences during eight years. On the old register of that seminary are kept the notes given to Joseph Sarto. They are in latin and run as follows:— *Disciplines nemini secundus* = inferior to none in good conduct.

*Ingenii maximi* = possessed of the highest intelligence.

*Memoriae summae* = of the best memory.

*Spei maximeae* = the greatest hopes can be founded on him.

The professor who wrote this was a good prophet.

Ordained priest in the year 1858, he worked as a common parish priest for 17 years, and in his two parishes he has left the fame of a man entirely devoted to the welfare of his people and dividing with the poor his small income. It was his long stay amongst the working people which has given him the deep insight into the spiritual wants of the christians.

The results of his pastoral work were so remarkable that in the year 1875 the Bishop of Treviso called him to be his Vicar General and Director of His Seminary. Thus was he initiated into the government of a Diocese.

Nine years later he was appointed Bishop of Mantua, and in 1891 he was raised to the dignity of a Cardinal and transferred to the old patriarchal See of Venice. In those two dioceses he undertook in a smaller sphere all the reforms which later on he has extended to the whole world; and of his charity at Venice it is said that once he pledged his own episcopal ring in order to help the poor, when his own means were exhausted.

At the death of LEO XIII, 1903, it was his duty as a Cardinal to go to Rome for the election of a new Pope. Far was he from thinking that he would be the chosen one, for he bought a return ticket when he left Venice.

It remains now to consider the work of PIUS X as Sovereign Pontiff. His whole government can be summed up in those words of St. Paul which he quoted in his first Encyclical letter *Instaurare omnia in Christo* to renew the world in Christ, to reconcile Society with Christ. He realized this plan by taking three energetic steps.

i. The drastic treatment of modernism, a new heresy which had begun to infest the upper classes.

ii. The introduction of the old practice of frequent and even daily communion and the destruction of the objections against it.

iii. Especially the command to all Bishops and priests to admit the little children to frequent communion, even at the age of 7 years.

Those three acts are master strokes, for they dispel from the minds of Catholics all clouds of doubt and heresy, they give strength to the souls by increasing the intensity of spiritual life, and prepare a generation of millions of Catholics who are imbued with sound principles and to stem the attacks of materialism which floods the world every where.

Amongst other regulations of PIUS X we may note :--

The excision of all profane music from the churches the codification of the Canonical Law - the institution of a Biblical Academy at Rome; for the critical study of the Bible, - the simplification of the formalities of christian marriage; and we must not forget the great lesson of apostolic courage with which he has upheld the liberty of the church, when he renounced millions of Revenues and church properties rather than to submit to the golden chains of a sectarian government.

We, on this West Coast of Africa, ought also to remember that PIUS X took always a keen interest in the mission work.

Nearly 50 new dioceses have been founded by him in Africa, Asia and America. It is he who has started the missions of Liberia, Upper Ivory Coast and Northern Nigeria.

In fine we may say that no Pope was more popular than PIUS X for he did not deal with theories; his influence reached all classes, rich and poor and even the children.

We may add that no man is the object of such a world wide sympathy as the Pope; for today the Catholic Church is more extended than ever, and all governments honour the Roman See.

Now PIUS X is gone. We may say that his heart has been broken by the war raging in Europe. The merit of his works have followed him before the throne of God.

But we are confident that his great reforms by perfecting the individuals and preparing a generation more united with God, are the foundation of a new society more respectful of the laws of Jesus Christ.

For this is the only remedy against our modern disorders, as St. Paul says in the Bible:—There is no other name by which we can be saved, except the name of Jesus, who will reign for ever.

AMEN.

### "National Opportunities."

To the Editor  
The Nigerian Chronicle

Dear Sir,

The following cutting from the African Edition of the *Export Journal* published in Liverpool has caught my eyes. I find it so interesting that I feel to pass it on to your readers. How I wish that the 3 conditions mentioned therein can be credited to Nigeria and the Native interests represented. I am no politician but I think it is better for us to wait and see.

Yours Faithfully

J. F. G.

Lagos, 31st August 1914.

### ENCLOSURE.

"Nations, like individuals, if they are to become great, must never neglect opportunities that will make for either the betterment of the social conditions of their peoples or for more healthy conditions for its industrial workers, or which will most easily provide for the rapid expansion of its commerce. You will find these three conditions are all at work in this and in other progressive countries. Particularly during the last twenty years the first two have been receiving more and more attention from the world's statesmen. It is quite safe to say that as more legislation of this kind is unanimously demanded by the great industrial army, so will the Governments be prepared to grant it. Statesmen are usually as progressive as the people—and no more; Governments are as good or as bad as the people allow them to be; the strongest growths come from beneath, and it is from the top that the leaves fall and the branches wither. Apart from this work of the nature I have indicated, nations show some stirring examples of what may be done by making or grasping opportunities."

### The Aerotug

39, Victoria Street,  
Westminster.

London,

30th July 1914.

The Editor,

The Nigerian Chronicle,  
Lagos.

Dear Sir,

I am enclosing a Note on "THE AEROTUG" which, I think, might interest a great number of your readers and which I hope you may be able to find space for publication.

Yours faithfully,

L. BLIN DESBLED

### ENCLOSURE.

As the name indicates, an Aerotug is a tug which is mechanically propelled by means of screws working in air. The value of such a vessel, the first of which has recently made her appearance in England is immediately apparent when there is question of navigating a waterway which is too shallow for the efficient working of a submerged propeller, or a narrow canal, the banks of which are likely to be damaged by the action of the ordinary water screw, or weed-obstructed waters, such as exist in many tropical countries. For the present, the Aerotug is not offered as an alternative to the ordinary tug; but its use is suggested in such cases where the Submerged Propeller either cannot be employed through insufficient depth of water or where it is likely to be damaged by rocks, mud or weed. The Aerotug, therefore, should be regarded as fulfilling a part quite distinct from that of the ordinary tug to which its employment is not antagonistic but supplementary.

The first Aerotug ever constructed was produced by "The Aerial Propulsion Syndicate, Ltd.," of 39, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, and, before being accepted for everyday, commercial use, she underwent severe towing tests at Staines. She is now in British Guiana where she is being employed for the transportation of sugar-cane on the shallow canals which traverse the plantations of Demerara.

She is driven by one aerial screw, 8ft. in diameter worked by a 15 h. p. motor, and she has sufficient towing capacity to draw a load of 60 tons at about 4 miles per hour. The motor itself consumes crude oil, and is very economical in operation. It is of very strong and simple construction, and can easily stand the wear and tear of hard work.

The British Guiana Aerotug is 30 ft. long, 8 ft. beam and draws only 8 inches of water. She is entirely built of steel, both as regards framework and plating. On the canals of Demerara she is used to tow a train of 12 to 15 small steel punts each weighing about 2 tons, and carrying about 4 tons of sugar-cane.

The performances of the first Aerotug clearly demonstrate the fact that many waterways, at present closed to mechanical navigation, can now derive considerable profit from the new means of propulsion which, from actual experience, has been shown to be as simple and as safe as any other tested method of mechanically propelled watercraft.

### **A Native on taxation**

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NIGERIAN CHRONICLE."

Sir,

You promised in some of your past issues to discuss the interesting subject of taxation raised by your correspondent and the Nigerian Pioneer and the arguments these writers have brought forward to support their case. As we have made this subject a study in our circle, I am voicing the sentiment of the other members of our club when I say that we shall be pleased to hear the views of the "Nigerian Chronicle" on the subject which we believe must be the popular

native view and not the *ex Cathedra* pronouncement of Fortune and Office hunters. It ought to be remembered that no man liveth unto himself; and whatever misfortunes befall men in the lowest strata of life, especially in a community such as ours, must find their reflex action in the so-called upper class of Society whose members may be taking refuge under a false security. The truly great man is the man who went about doing good and seeking the good of others rather than his own personal ends. Here is an opportunity for a lesson and a moral. However, my friends and myself will await with intense interest the discussion promised by you. More anon.

Yours truly,

A NATIVE.

Lagos 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1914.

Continued from page 2

popularity that Bakers give to it by making smaller loaves and sending them into the different markets it has become a diet indulged in by every class.

From the cutting we reproduce in this impression entitled "*Oats and Barley if wheat fails*" it will be seen what suggestions people afar off are making to themselves to meet any emergency. It may not be known that the Flour from which bread is made is produced from wheat, a kind of corn similar to our own but only different in the quantities of their different constituents. We may say in passing that manufacturers prepare flour also from Barley another specie of corn; and some of the flour that reach us here are mixtures of this two; and sometime the corn which we ship to Europe return to us as flour.

The question now arises in this time of need when bread is a rarity because of the scarcity of flour how we are to meet this want. We have about two or three species of corn or maize and our business is to find out what we can make of them and which will serve a good substitute for wheat.

There are other raw materials of home production which we can turn out to advantage and on improved lines for home consumption. A time of need is a time for serious reflection, and so we hope our readers will carefully ponder over the ideas suggested and act upon them.

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## Thoughts for the Sabbath

### ON TRUTH.

Meres profundo, pulchrior evenit;  
Luctere, multa prouet integrum  
Cum laude victorem geretque  
Proelia conjugibus loquenda.

HORACE IV, 4.

Sink it into the deep it rises forth  
more gloriously;

Strangle it, it overcomes with great  
renown the strangler, unvanquished ere,

And with strength renewed fights battles for  
women to talk about.

Ri Otito sinu okun  
yio fo gedegbe;  
Fun l'oran ja, yio bori  
A'lonil'oran na ti a ko sete ri,  
Okiki re yio si kan  
Awon obiuru yio si ina fi da orin.

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## FROM THE EDITOR'S POST BAG. *Contd.*

"The joy of it all lies in the fact that your fight makes the way easier for the next generation—so don't lose heart. Right must prevail and happy are those who are striving to teach what Right is."



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**THE NIGERIAN CHRONICLE**

*A weekly review of progress in politics, economics and commerce; and of general news especially as affecting Nigeria*

Edited by CHRIS. JOHNSON

Publishing Office:

**Kumolu House  
Shitta Street, Lagos,  
Nigeria.**

**Post Office Box No. 259**

To Subscribers.— In the work of gathering news and notes on current events the Editorial Department of THE NIGERIAN CHRONICLE solicits the co-operation of subscribers and advertisers from whom they will always be pleased to receive information, personal or general, likely to interest readers.

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## NEWS OF THE WEEK

## HOME.

**Nigeria and Loyalty.**

On Wednesday the 9th instant a Mass Meeting was held at Ilupesi Hall under the auspices of the People's Union and of which due notice had been given. The object of it is to raise funds in Nigeria towards the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund already begun in Great Britain. The White Cap Chiefs were all present on the Platform and Chief, The Ojora, presided and struck the keynote of Loyalty to and sympathy with the King Emperor which was followed up by stirring speeches from Chief, the Obanikoro, Rt. Rev. Bishop Oluwole, Mr. Kitoyi Ajasa, Dr. John Randle, Dr. Obasa of Ikija the Secretary, and others. The meeting resolved that a fund be raised and handed to His Honour the Administrator for transmission through His Excellency the Governor-General to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. A Committee of ways and means has been appointed which is having its session as we go to press. We hope the community will rally round this movement and contribute their quota towards the fund despite the hardness of the times.

We understand the Local Auxiliary of the Aborigines Protection Society under the Vice Presidency of S. H. Pearse Esqr. is contemplating another movement in the interest of those likely to be affected within Nigeria on the same lines as the Indian Relief Fund.

His Honour the Acting Chief Justice left for the Hinterland last Monday to continue the sessions of the Criminal Assizes which had been unavoidably held over.

Several Bills to be presented to the Legislative Council and enacted for the Protectorate have been published for general information.

OBITUARY:—Chief Osarojagbon the Ojomo of Benin on the 19th ultimo.

**News from ABEOKUTA**

A goodly number of Egbas who have fled their country crossed over to the Ijebu District where they found an Asylum. The Awujale, it is reported, has sent a message to the Alake to inform him of this.

Rumour says that a certain document was presented to the Chiefs to be signed in order to make them assume responsibility with reference to the Ijemo affairs.

The Storey House and compound of one Asalu of Obado is reported as having been demolished by dynamite whilst he was under arrest as Untried Prisoner in the Police Cell Ijemo. This man has been arrested since the 8th of August "and is still in custody."

The Egba Government it is said in some quarters has handed over the Police Department into the hands of the British Government. Nothing will improve the situation than a clean sweep of this Augean Stable that no remnant of an Amalekite be left behind. "Rotten fish stinks from the head."

It is reported that certain conditions have been placed before the Egba authorities amongst which are the following:—

(a) That the treaty of Independence granted to the Nation be cancelled, as also the Mixed and Native Courts Agreements.

(b) That the British Government shall control the Finance of the Country—Revenue and Expenditure.

(c) That the English Government shall appoint members of Council yearly.

(d) That the Provincial Court Ordinance be introduced into Egbaland.

(e) On the whole that the country be administered on the same lines as Ibadan.

Can these reports be true? Can it be that the Government is following the leading-strings of the "African Mail"?

It is worth remembering that the African Mail has suggested in its issue of May 15 1914 that the Treaty of Independence made with Abeokuta in 1893 of sequentes is hampering the hands of the Government in its enforcing the Provincial Courts Ordinance, and in its making a Northern Nigeria of the Southern Provinces. What interpretation can best be put on the present state of affairs at Abeokuta, the direction in which the political wind is blowing, we leave our readers to decide.

"Biyod nar biyod," meaning blood is blood, says a certain boatman. But this is no excuse why a certain Church should become the cave of Adullam where the discontented gather themselves together. It is galling to see the change of front and drifting to this 'Bodasawa.'

# The Nigerian Chronicle.

## "Government and Taxation."

We need hardly offer any apology to our readers for the delay in our coming out with the long promised article on "Government and Taxation" criticisms of the special articles contributed to our paper of July 31 and August 7 and those which appeared in the "Nigerian Pioneer" of the same dates including the issue of the 14th August of the latter paper. Recent events at Abeokuta render it injudicious on our part at this moment to follow up that critical method we have all along had in mind in dealing with this subject. We are however of the opinion that an academic discussion with bare references will meet the case just now for truth is one and indivisible.

Taxation is "the imposition of taxes on a community by the Government for raising a revenue;" and by a "tax" is meant "a duty or rate imposed by Government on the products of industry, on property, and on incomes." The term "taxation" has been defined elsewhere as that part of the revenue of a state which is obtained by compulsory dues and charges upon its subjects." The word "compulsory" is used in that connection to differentiate this particular dues and charges from that revenue which comes in from the property &c. owned or possessed by the State; and from services performed by it of which the State has the monopoly.

The question may be asked what is that something called Government which possesses such a power? A preliminary explanation is here necessary. "Every individual member of a Society desires to live and be comfortable; to have family and friends; to increase their wealth, improve their position and their personal attainments and to be respected and honoured whatever may be the country in which he is born or the position of life he may occupy." To attain these ends every individual places himself under the power of Society as a whole which in turn promises to respect, defend, and keep inviolate the rights of each member. Society, on the other hand, for the sake of convenience delegates the performance of these duties to one or a few or many of its members called the Government. Government therefore consists of acts done by these human beings who are the agents of some body or community of men called the Society. Society is the *Principal* and Government is the *Agent*. Can there then be a Government without Society? Does Government then exist to pray upon Society or to work for the interest and progress Society? Is it Government first and then Society or vice versa? Is the Agent greater than his principals? Are Principals (Society) to be burdened because Agents (Governments) wickedly, wilfully without permission and neglectful of advice, and on their own prerogative waste their master's substance in riotous living refusing to give a true and just account of their Stewardship to those who constitute them authorities? Society may exist without a Government but no Government can subsist with-

out a Society upon which to operate. As an Agent, Government derives its power to punish criminals, to enforce contracts and to maintain a form of Administration that best conduces to the well-being of the Social institution and to keep inviolate the rights of their fellow men, from Society itself; and without this concession no true Government has power and can exist. "In proportion as the people are accustomed to manage their affairs by their own active intervention, instead of leaving them to the government, their desires will turn to repelling tyranny, rather than to tyrannizing: while in proportion as all real initiative and direction resides in the government, and individuals habitually feel and act as under its perpetual tutelage, popular institutions develop in them not the desire of freedom, but an unmeasured appetite for place and power; diverting the intelligence and activity of the country from its principal business, to a wretched competition for the selfish prizes and the petty vanities of office."

For the maintenance of the machinery of Government Society needs money; and the power to raise such money—the when and how and what much—in all good Governments are retained in the first instance by the Society, whilst in all bad Governments they rest entirely with the ruling power who being human use that power in spite of themselves to oppress since it is always to their personal interest to secure funds for their salaries without any regard for real and legitimate public interest, convenience, and ability. We would stop here and reflect on some of the points raised by our would-be politicians on this question of Government.

We are told by one of these writers that what distinguishes the civilized man from the savage lies in their political feelings. That this general premise is not true is obvious from the consideration that the lower animals act from instinct and feeling whilst man is moved to action by his reasoning faculty which he may exercise rightly or wrongly. A savage acts more from feeling than from reason. Can anyone rightly accuse the Egbas of the lack of the exercise of reason?

This writer, taking feeling as a standard, went on to say that those nations who are capable of managing their political affairs so as to avoid strife among themselves to the pitch of bloodshed are regarded as civilized and have the right to be independent. But the current history of civilized Europe which is only but history repeating itself has completely overthrown this ipsi dixit.

"Wealth and numbers," he continued, "are mere incidentals and they go to help nations, but these in themselves do not suffice at the present day to generate that respect from other nations which would go to make independence." And just in the next paragraph but one we find him say:—"as wealth and intelligence increase the legal position meant by such independence will become clearer and clearer and future generations will thereby be more benefitted." Equating and subtracting the foregoing statements we find the writer admits "intelligence" as the bulwark of independence; and surely modification of feeling which he had given before as the standard of independence is not "intelligence;" nor is feeling reason.

The nightmare of an allegation called by that writer "the recent political upheaval at Abeokuta" has, in the light of the recently published petition, nailed to the counter that statement as a counterfeit.

Referring to the Treaty of Independence made with the Abeokuta authorities by the British Government the writer is of the opinion that there are two conditions which will reduce all agreements to a dead letter: Anarchy and lack of Finance—conditions which are not stipulated in the agreement but are the excuse of a Lion who wishes to destroy a harmless sheep.

To be continued.

## London Gossip.

### THE CENSORSHIP OF THE PRESS.

London, August 10th, 1914.

The public must prepare for a very severe censorship of war news, especially of naval news. Even the most innocent-looking fact like the arrival of the torpedo flotilla at a given port may furnish valuable information to the enemy. The censorship is, as a matter of fact, already in being and at work, and until the control of the seas is decisively in our hands the public must be content to be kept more or less in the dark, or, at all events, to wait for its news until it has lost all strategical importance. It is to be hoped, however, that the Government in their turn will remember that the total suppression of all news may cause trouble in itself. If there is no trustworthy news in the newspapers rumour will take its place, and rumour is the mother of panic. The ordinary channels of information from our coasts can easily be dammed up, but nobody can prevent the eye witnesses on the spot from passing the news from mouth to mouth, and no tale is likely to lose by that sort of telling. It is a matter of some anxiety to our authorities already that the public should not be unduly depressed by occasional untoward incidents which are bound to occur in the course of our naval struggle with Germany. It will be remembered that in the early days of the Boer war some people got hysterical over quite small reverses such as were bound to occur as part of the chances of war. Probably in the sterner struggle of to-day, and in the light of experiences still comparatively recent, a steadier temper will be shown, but the Government will do well to remember that public confidence cannot be enforced by merely keeping it blindfold. It is possible to exaggerate the strategic importance of taking the nation into confidence.

### THE MALL TRANSFORMED.

The war has brought one queer little revolution to London. It has converted the Mall, all the way from Trafalgar Square to Buckingham Palace, from a deserted avenue of stiff trees and arid gravel into the gayest evening promenade in London. All the evening through a full tide of promenaders flows up and down it to and from the Palace. At ordinary times the prim trees have a monotonous and rather dismal effect. But in these nights they contrast beautifully with the moving, changing groups of promenaders beneath them under the yellow light of the flame are lamps which here, as on the Embankment illuminate the foliage so richly and beautifully. One learns for the first time that there is something to be said for the taste which designed the Mall during the last reign. If you could only keep the Mall full of promenaders the prim trees and the long straight vista are exactly the right thing.

### BIG NEWSPAPER CIRCULATION BUT NO PROFIT.

It is a popular impression that newspapers are making fortunes out of the war. Proprietors know only too well that this is ludicrously ill-founded. It is based, of course, on the obvious increase in what may be called the more visible revenue of a newspaper. When you are selling special editions like hot cakes without

lowering your prices the ordinary observer finds it difficult to believe that your profits are diminishing. He does not always see that, as an immediate source of revenue, the advertiser is more important to a newspaper than the reader. And the war crisis has all but absolutely stopped regular advertising on a large scale. Some of the bulky dailies whose proportions used to seem to the foreigner a proof of the heavy taste of the English are now shrunk to elegance. Of course, circulations are increasing. It is, indeed, the present aim of newspaper strategy to retain the larger circulation after the special interest which has created it has ceased. If that is done when normal conditions return the newly conquered circulation will bring more profitable advertisements. Meanwhile, the reader may rejoice in being able to read his news without having to jump the ingeniously placed obstacles which so many advertisements are.

## Cocoa from the Southern Provinces of Nigeria.

THE following extracts are taken from the current issue of the *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute*. Five samples were received by the Institute and the report made thereon read as follows. We have not the space to give the full analysis:

'In chemical composition the five samples of beans were of normal character, and shewed no material difference. The samples were too small to be submitted to manufacturers for trial, but they were sent for valuation to a firm of brokers, who reported that in their opinion the five products were all very good. They valued them as follows in Liverpool (March, 1914): Sample No. 1, 57s. per cwt.; No. 2, 54s. 6d. to 55s. 6d. per cwt.; No. 3, 61s.; No. 4, 60s.; No. 5, 56s.

'On the date of these valuations, 'African' cocoa was quoted in Liverpool at 51s. 6d. to 55s. 3d. per cwt., and in London as follows: San Thome and Cameroons, grey to coloury, 59s. to 62s.; East Coast, good red, 64s. to 75s.; British West Coast, fair to good, 48s. 56s.

'It is satisfactory that of these five cocoa from Nigeria, Nos. 3 and 4 were valued at rates very similar to those obtainable for San Thome cocoa, and that the other three were valued at prices equal to those obtainable for the best grades of British West African cocoa that now come on the market. Nos. 1 and 2, which were valued at lower rates than Nos. 3 and 4, in spite of their having been fermented, seem to have suffered somewhat from overdrying, as is shown in the brittleness and broken condition of the husks, and the curious cheese-like appearance shewn by some of the fractured beans in these two samples was probably due to the same cause.

'Two samples of cocoa which had been prepared by heating the beans at a suitable temperature in a rotary drier without previous fermentation were received in January, 1914.

'No. 6.—This sample consisted of unwashed, clean, plump, fairly large beans, having a broken husk which was brittle and in most cases broken. The beans broke easily, the fracture being of a purple colour. The flavour was somewhat harsh and bitter.

"No. 7.—Clean, plump, fairly large beans, having a pale brown husk, with dark brown patches. The beans broke fairly easily, the fracture being of a curious slaty purplish-brown colour. The flavour was rather harsh.

"The samples were submitted to a firm of brokers in Liverpool who reported that they were of good quality No. 6 being worth 54s. 6d. to 55s. 6d. per cwt., and No. 7 54s. to 55s. per cwt.. These samples, although unfermented, were valued at comparatively good prices, as will be seen by comparing the prices of African cocoa on the same date. It is clear, however, that the treatment of cocoa beans in a rotary drier, without previous fermentation, will not yield a product as the fermented and dried cocoas represented by samples 3 and 4, which were valued at 61s. and 60s. per cwt. respectively."

From "The African Mail." August 31 1914

## Letters to the Editor.

### Concerning the Egba Government Finance.

Dear Mr. Editor,

The resignation of Mr. Eduo, as Secretary from the Egba Government Service reported in your last issue comes as no surprise. It is only but natural to expect this as his administration has already got stranded on the sandbanks of Financial bankruptcy and he would only take advantage of the present crisis. The balance reported to be in the Exchequer on the 30th of June was £732. I have not of course seen the July accounts and that of the month that has just closed. But it is the inevitable conclusion that the balance must have run down considerably lower. There is the unfortunate war in Europe which has paralysed trade everywhere. There you have also the Shops Order in Council which had been and is fast driving trade out of Abeokuta. Added to these is the recent exit or compulsory absence at Ijemo of the Chief farmers and traders of the country. The demolition of property and the hunting of people the returns and the chase—a state of things which has affected tribes other than the Ijemos and is now responsible for the exodus of a large section of the agricultural and commercial community of Abeokuta to Ijebu and other Districts. It is a question of general principle that any administration that is affecting adversely or otherwise the lives and wealth of its people is affecting in a similar manner its own self; for there will be no source from which it can draw revenue since the revenue that could be made is proportional to the number of men available for, and capable of, creating wealth.

Our politicians of Abeokuta dream more of politics than they actually have in their experience for they always walk in a way that counteracts the object of their desires. They wish to install what they call "Compound tax" to recoup their depleted Exchequer and are even up to now demolishing the very compounds, appropriating individual properties and utilising for public purpose the materials gathered from the ruins. To create revenue for the end of the month men are promiscuously seized dragged before a modern

"Judge Jeffreys" get fined from £12 10/- to £25 with an alternative of imprisonment. As this alternative is inevitable in almost every case the men are run in to be maintained by the Government. Revenue still not forthcoming to meet Emoluments the minor officials have all had their appointments terminated, the Police Band disbanded and some scores of the men compulsorily retired not to talk of the artisans and labourers.

These are the facts in my own view that would lead a man who has any respect for himself to relinquish a post especially under such a cloud. He could not have got a better chance, than this. Further developments I will communicate to you.

Yours truly,

AN IJEMO.

Abeokuta, 31st August, 1914.

### On the Resignation of the Egba Government Secretary.

AKE,

Abeokuta,

1st September 1914.

To the Editor

The Nigerian Chronicle  
Lagos,

Sir,

Allow me to say that in my opinion the Government Secretary of Abeokuta does not tender his resignation to the Alake and Council as stated by your Abeokuta News agent in your last issue. We (I include a few others as myself) who are cognizant of the trend of Abeokuta politics of today know that he will never of himself think of resigning and; if at all he does, it is simply a hoax and a make-believe to attain certain ends which in brief is to secure himself the more in that position especially as the general public of Abeokuta had expressed the opinion that the present administration is a failure. I can assure you and your readers that wherever you hear of the Alake and Council this politically inert body is none other than the man who rules the roost.

The rumour of the Secretary's resignation which I have heard myself may be founded on the fact that he would like it to be said that he would of himself resign only that the "Alake and Council" would not let him go, as they appreciate his services to the country. If the Secretary really want what is credited to him now, he had had ample chance a few weeks ago to do so and would not seek to go now that there is a lot to do. You mark what I say, Sir, it is all policy.

Yours truly

AN EGBA AKE.

### The Ijemo Incident.

To the Editor

The Nigerian Chronicle

Dear Mr Editor

I have been informed from an unofficial but reliable source that a Board of Enquiry is to be formed to investigate the whole Ijemo incident. That the Sessions of the Board will be held publicly, and the interests concerned will be represented by Counsels

as was done in the case of the Printing Office Enquiry. I am told further that a Judge of the Supreme Court or a qualified disinterested person is to sit as President or Chairman and the members will be composed of officials and unofficial gentlemen in Lagos. If this report be true, I have no doubt that it will meet with the wishes of all Egbas; and we here in Abeokuta may rest satisfied that justice and fairplay will be thereby secured for us despite all the wilful misrepresentations that have been made. We are keeping quiet as hitherto and looking up to what God will do for us in this matter. He is a friend that falleth never especially in time of need.

Believe me to be.

Dear Sir,  
Yours truly  
ABBEOKUTA.

Abeokuta, 8th September 1914.

### An Appreciation.

Sir,

Allow me to congratulate you for your able and instructive editorial of last week, "In Times of Need," which has really proved to me a source of inspiration at a time of need. Reading carefully your suggestions, I have been able to cast aside the mental depression with which I had been worried and to learn anew that truth which Shakespeare had long taught that men are masters of their fates. I think that as a people we easily yield to misfortunes rather than face them boldly and bravely. The lesson of adaptation, of making the most and efficient use of what lies at our feet to meet our immediate wants and so make life happier and worth more the living, is a good and beneficial message to convey to any individual who is still feeling his way in life.

I am much indebted to you for that article which I am sure other readers must find equally interesting.

Yours Faithfully,  
A YOUNG READER.

Lagos, 9th September 1914.

### A criticism of the "Nigerian Pioneer" "Abeokuta Notes."

Sir,

Unless one has the maw of a shark to bolt down all manner of indigestibles and rubbish, from a sledge hammer to an anvil, can he believe the official tale contributed under the "Abeokuta Notes" in the columns of your Contemporary the "Nigerian Pioneer" of the 4th inst. *Inter alia* the writer said "the prostration of the men and genuflection of the women to the Alake on his way to the Commissioner... show not only their loyalty but also their joy that all trouble and anxiety were now over." Probably the writer is one of those slightly infatuated educated natives, who has lost all touch with his people and densely ignorant of the customs, etiquette, and idiosyncracies of the Native and human nature in general. With a view to lighten his darkness, I refer him to the following facts:—

During the tyrannical rule of certain Emirs of Ilorin, of an Oloyo of Oyo, and of some Bashoruns of Ibadan the relatives of those kidnapped and sold or killed through the arbitrary Orders of these Potentates, unable to resist, go to their palaces or residences early in the morning, prostrate themselves, and salute the despot by saying "Olorun je ki emi re ko gun." (May God prolong your life.) These Head Chiefs know that their people being powerless *volens volens* must swallow their grievance and salute them in accordance with their position as Paramount Chiefs. The Emir of Ilorin always replied "Tulasi!" (You have no other alternative); while the others respond *Qkun! Qkun!* (Thank you! Thank you!) Take the case of some former Kings of Ashanti and Dahomey who were reported as floating canoes on the blood of their subjects. Since the people are powerless they have always accorded them the usual kingly salutations until justice was satisfied. The occupation of their countries by the British and French Governments, a visitation from God for wickedness, has now made a repetition impossible.

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"No. 7.—Clean, plump, fairly large beans, having a pale brown husk, with dark brown patches. The beans broke fairly easily, the fracture being of a curious slaty purplish-brown colour. The flavour was rather harsh.

"The samples were submitted to a firm of brokers in Liverpool who reported that they were of good quality No. 6 being worth 54s. 6d. to 55s. 6d. per cwt., and No. 7 54s. to 55s. per cwt. These samples, although unfermented, were valued at comparatively good prices, as will be seen by comparing the prices of African cocoa on the same date. It is clear, however, that the treatment of cocoa beans in a rotary drier, without previous fermentation, will not yield a product as the fermented and dried cocoas represented by samples 3 and 4, which were valued at 61s. and 60s. per cwt. respectively."

From "The African Mail," August 31 1914

## Letters to the Editor.

### Concerning the Egba Government Finance.

Dear Mr. Editor,

The resignation of Mr. Edun, as Secretary from the Egba Government Service reported in your last issue comes as no surprise. It is only but natural to expect this as his administration has already got stranded on the sandbanks of Financial bankruptcy and he would only take advantage of the present crisis. The balance reported to be in the Exchequer on the 30th of June was £732. I have not of course seen the July accounts and that of the month that has just closed. But it is the inevitable conclusion that the balance must have run down considerably lower. There is the unfortunate war in Europe which has paralysed trade everywhere. There you have also the Shops Order in Council which had been and is fast driving trade out of Abeokuta. Added to these is the recent exit or compulsory absence at Ijemo of the Chief farmers and traders of the country. The demolition of property and the hunting of people the returns and the chase—a state of things which has affected tribes other than the Ijemos and is now responsible for the exodus of a large section of the agricultural and commercial community of Abeokuta to Ijebu and other Districts. It is a question of general principle that any administration that is affecting adversely or otherwise the lives and wealth of its people is affecting in a similar manner its own self; for there will be no source from which it can draw revenue since the revenue that could be made is proportional to the number of men available for, and capable of, creating wealth.

Our politicians of Abeokuta dream more of politics than they actually have in their experience for they always walk in a way that counteracts the object of their desires. They wish to install what they call "Compound tax" to recoup their depleted Exchequer and are even up to now demolishing the very compounds, appropriating individual properties and utilising for public purpose the materials gathered from the ruins.

To create revenue for the end of the month men are promiscuously seized dragged before a modern

"Judge Jeffreys" get fined from £12 10/- to £25 with an alternative of imprisonment. As this alternative is inevitable in almost every case the men are run in to be maintained by the Government. Revenue still, not forthcoming to meet Emoluments the minor officials have all had their appointments terminated, the Police Band disbanded and some scores of the men compulsorily retired not to talk of the artisans and labourers.

These are the facts in my own view that would lead a man who has any respect for himself to relinquish a post especially under such a cloud. He could not have got a better chance, than this. Further developments I will communicate to you.

Yours truly,

AN IJEMO.

Abeokuta, 31st August, 1914.

### On the Resignation of the Egba Government Secretary.

AKE,

Abeokuta,

1st September 1914.

To the Editor

The Nigerian Chronicle  
Lagos,

Sir,

Allow me to say that in my opinion the Government Secretary of Abeokuta does not tender his resignation to the Alake and Council as stated by your Abeokuta News agent in your last issue. We (I include a few others as myself) who are cognizant of the trend of Abeokuta politics of today know that he will never of himself think of resigning and; if at all he does, it is simply a hoax and a make-believe to attain certain ends which in brief is to secure himself the more in that position especially as the general public of Abeokuta had expressed the opinion that the present administration is a failure. I can assure you and your readers that wherever you hear of the Alake and Council this politically inert body is none other than the man who rules the roost.

The rumour of the Secretary's resignation which I have heard myself may be founded on the fact that he would like it to be said that he would of himself resign only that the "Alake and Council" would not let him go, as they appreciate his services to the country. If the Secretary really meant what is credited to him now, he had had ample chance a few weeks ago to do so and would not seek to go now that there is a lot to do. You mark what I say, Sir, it is all policy.

Yours truly

AN EGBA AKE.

### The Ijemo Incident.

To the Editor

The Nigerian Chronicle

Dear Mr Editor

I have been informed from an unofficial but reliable source that a Board of Enquiry is to be formed to investigate the whole Ijemo incident. That the Sessions of the Board will be held publicly, and the interests concerned will be represented by Counsels

as was done in the case of the Printing Office Enquiry. I am told further that a Judge of the Supreme Court or a qualified disinterested person is to sit as President or Chairman and the members will be composed of officials and unofficial gentlemen in Lagos. If this report be true, I have no doubt that it will meet with the wishes of all Egbas; and we here in Abeokuta may rest satisfied that justice and fairplay will be thereby secured for us despite all the wilful misrepresentations that have been made. We are keeping quiet as hitherto and looking up to what God will do for us in this matter. He is a friend that faileth never especially in time of need.

Believe me to be,

Dear Sir,  
Yours truly  
ABEOKUTA.

Abeokuta, 8th September 1914.

### An Appreciation.

Sir,

Allow me to congratulate you for your able and instructive editorial of last week, "In Times of Need," which has really proved to me a source of inspiration at a time of need. Reading carefully your suggestions, I have been able to cast aside the mental depression with which I had been worried and to learn anew that truth which Shakespeare had long taught that men are masters of their fates. I think that as a people we easily yield to misfortunes rather than face them boldly and bravely. The lesson of adaptation, of making the most and efficient use of what lies at our feet to meet our immediate wants and so make life happier and worth more the living, is a good and beneficial message to convey to any individual who is still feeling his way in life.

I am much indebted to you for that article which I am sure other readers must find equally interesting.

Yours Faithfully,  
A YOUNG READER.

Lagos, 9th September 1914.

### A criticism of the "Nigerian Pioneer" "Abeokuta Notes."

Sir,

Unless one has the maw of a shark to bolt down all manner of indigestibles and rubbish, from a sledge hammer to an anvil, can he believe the official tale contributed under the "Abeokuta Notes" in the columns of your Contemporary the "Nigerian Pioneer" of the 4th inst. *Inter alia* the writer said "the prostration of the men and genuflection of the women to the Alake on his way to the Commissioner..... show not only their loyalty but also their joy that all trouble and anxiety were now over." Probably the writer is one of those flighty infatuated educated natives, who has lost all touch with his people and densely ignorant of the customs, etiquette, and idiosyncracies of the Native and human nature in general. With a view to lighten his darkness, I refer him to the following facts:—

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It is rather sickening to read the false encomiums showered from time to time on the present Alake's administration. His Highness's capabilities are too

well known. I fail to see how falsehoods and misrepresentation will help the Egba Official, who undoubtedly is the Abeokuta Correspondent and contributor of "Abeokuta Notes" in the pages of your contemporary "The Nigerian Pioneer." I hope sooner or later he will not have to say of himself *peooavi?*  
Thanking you for kind indulgence.

I am,  
Yours truly,  
JOKOSENUMI.

September 9th, 1914.

### One thing and another.

BY ALAPARA.

"Can any evil happen in the land and the Lord hath not done it"? would appear a suitable apology offered from a pulpit over certain incident. The argument of this clever Divine is unintelligible. Did he want his hearers to understand that God aids and abets the performance of evil? If so, will not Judas be entitled to a crown of Glory? This is the Ology that emanated from Under the Stone *Subsaxis*.

One wonders whether the Judges that sat and compared the article "E-lun or Independence which is it?" with the series of letters that appeared in the "Nigerian Pioneer" arrived at the verdict that the same man wrote them? "Judge Pioneer" has told the tale out of School Poor fellow I pity him!

The Treaty of Independence made between the British Government and the Egba Chiefs and Elders stipulated that British subjects shall be permitted to "occupy" lands in Egba land. But of this much the treaty did not treat that if Mr "Janus" is an Ogboni he becomes an Alderman and is entitled to sit in Moses' seat? Europeans I know had been admitted Ogbonis. Would it be reasonable to say they were Alake's subjects or Egbas? The Devil might as well claim the Angel Gabriel as his victim because they once had dinner together.

The Scripture says "All men are liars"—not Lawyers. But a certain official considers himself so intellectually superior to all men that he does not consult even the man of law on matters of law. It would appear the two men have come to the parting of the ways.

Talking of "Lawyers" reminds me of the funny figures one sees when entering some Native Courts in the Protectorate—the aspirants of the class of "we make the laws" screened from view by European and American Law Books but not a scrap of Native Customary Law before them. All Native Laws and Customs are lumbered in their heads and when in a fix they have only to scratch their occiput, and like Jack in the box out pops the law. True or false the lilligants acquiesce for

"Theirs not to make reply."

### Things worth knowing

To the Editor,  
The Nigerian Chronicle,  
Sir,

I would like to know:—

If it is Treason or Seditious to criticise or correct the false statements or misrepresentations about Abeokuta affairs which have been soiling the pages of the Nigerian Pioneer?

Is it a fact that an Official was called "a great misrepresentor of facts" in connection with the presence of troops at Abeokuta during the Egba Police Rising of 1912?

Why was not the above experience brought to bear on other representations made by this Official, or was the accusation baseless?

If such precaution had been taken would the regrettable Ijemo incident have happened?

Yours truly  
OJUMITO.

9th September 1914.

### National Relief Fund.

To the Editor  
The Nigerian Chronicle  
Sir,

At a Mass Meeting, held at Enu Owa, on Wednesday, the 9th inst. presided over by the White Cap Chiefs, it was unanimously resolved:—

1. That a Fund, entitled The National Relief Fund, be immediately raised, which shall be handed over to His Honour the Administrator, for transmission through His Excellency the Governor-General, to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, as a Donation from the native community of Lagos, towards the National Relief Fund instituted by His Royal Highness for the benefit of sufferers from the Great War.

2. That the Committee of the People's Union be empowered to carry out this scheme, with power to add to their number.

3. That list of subscribers be published from time to time together with the amount subscribed by each.

I shall be greatly obliged if you will kindly find space for this communication in this week's issue of your Journal.

Yours faithfully  
OBASA OF IKIJA  
Hon. Sec.

Lagos September 10 1914.

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It is a curious fact which may not be known by our Readers and the public that those who are warmly advocating Taxation at the present day are mainly officials who will benefit from the fund and whose salaries depend upon it. *Ogo ta Ogo ko ta owo alaru a pe* (The hirings wage is assured whether his master makes money or not) It is to the interest of these officials to suggest anything damping the consequences so far as others are concerned. It is however to the interest of Administrations to be wary as to how they follow these men who only live to get others into trouble and difficulties whilst screening themselves from view. This was the case with the last administration ere it was pointed out in this journal. The benefit of our advice came at the tail end of that regime when Sir Walter had to admit his mistaken policy in his valedictory address. The present administration may not be aware that there are some people whose intentions it is to make his administration, and therefore their advices to him, stepping stones to their advancement to greatness forgetting that righteousness alone (*i.e.* Truth Speaking Plain dealing, Unfeigned love for others and self-abnegation) constitutes true and permanent greatness.

It will also strike the man who reflects that these good advocates of taxation have never got it in their brains to suggest ways and means whereby the citizens can make money from which the State can impose taxation as is done in other countries. Their only cry is Gold! Gold!! Gold!!! They take no thought as to where the Gold is to come from. Further they would wickedly close every avenue of income to the Natives unless such as would contribute to their aggrandizement *e.g.* The Agricultural Loans which some Officials who own farms are advocating in order to obtain the monopoly over Palm Oil, Palm Kernels, Cocoa &c. and so shut out the illiterate farmers. Already some Officials are advancing money on the quiet as an experiment.

THANKS FOR SYMPATHY.

Mr. Ader and family beg to return their sincere thanks to all kind friends who have by letters or personal visits expressed their sympathy in their recent bereavement occasioned by the death of Christian Akibansi.

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September 18, 1914.

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Edited by CHRIS. JOHNSON

Publishing Office:

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**Post Office Box No. 259**

To *Subscribers*.— In the work of gathering news and notes on current events the Editorial Department of THE NIGERIAN CHRONICLE solicits the co-operation of subscribers and advertisers from whom they will always be pleased to receive information, personal or general, likely to interests readers.

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**NEWS OF THE WEEK****HOME.**

A Special Emergency Committee meeting of the Local Auxiliary of the Aborigines Society will be held at the G. M. Hall tomorrow at 5 p.m. to lay before members conversations which have been had with the Government in connection with the war in Europe and for the devising of ways and means.

We welcome Dr W. A. Savage back home on a visit and wish him a good time among his relatives and friends.

By special request of the Lagos Chiefs, a Prayer Meeting about the GREAT WAR will be conducted at Holy Trinity Ebute Ero on Friday the 18th inst. at 7 o'clock p.m.

In conclusion of the prayers for the success of the British Soldiers, etc., that has been made by the Lagos Muslim since the outbreak of war in Europe early in August last, Head Priests of each Mosque and other principal Muslims in the town of Lagos and Districts are requested to attend the Head Mosque, at Victoria Road, Lagos, on Tuesday the 22nd instant at 2 o'clock p.m.

All beggars, the blind, the lame, etc., are also invited to come and receive alms.

The object of the Muslims in making the prayers is for the great benefit Islam has been deriving from the British Government. And more over that His Majesty's Government is right in taking steps in the wars.

**News from ABEOKUTA**

It is reported that a New Treaty has been entered into between the British Government and Egba Authorities which the latter signed on the 2nd inst.

It would appear unintelligible if the news is true that according to the new order of things the Alake and Council shall constitute the Court of Appeal and that the Provincial Courts Ordinance shall take effect as from the 25th ultimo.

Is the Provincial Courts Ordinance already enacted in the Southern Provinces? Things are moving really with a vengeance here.

Some officials had long interview with the Alake on the morning of the 14th inst. Is it for the purpose of making or preparing cases?

The Nigerian Police quartered in Abeokuta in the execution of their duties use guns with fixed bayonets

instead of their staves. When peace officers are armed as above mentioned it does not help to allay the fears of the people especially after what had happened to the Ijemo people. In the *sol disant* "storm centre" this system does not obtain; why should it be in vogue in a community in which illiterates preponderate. Does it not savour of Jingoism?

Despite the announcement from the Alake that the Egbas who migrated from Abeokuta should return to their homes, confidence is not restored. Apart from the attitude of the Police, some of the Ijemos who returned have been arrested and requested to redeem themselves by paying the fines imposed on them.

Corrugated Iron sheets of houses demolished at Ijemo belonging to accused persons in connection with the recent incident have been utilised for building Official quarters on the Race Course.

The large market in front of and about the Police Station Ijemo where the soldiers sell goods ceased to exist since their removal 23/8/14 from that locality.

The case of the Egba Government Versus Messrs E. Soyemi Alder and A. B. Green who were charged with Sedition in connection with the recent incident at Ijemo came up for a Preliminary Investigation last Monday at 2.30 p.m. Commissioner Hughes is taking down the deposition whilst Commissioner Birrel Gray acts on behalf of the prosecution.

Barristers J. Egerton Shyngle, E. O. Moore and Olaseni Moore Counsels for the defence arrived here on Monday by the noon train together with their clients in connection with the Preliminary investigation. They are expected to be joined by Barrister E. J. Alex Taylor who at present has gone further North to defend in some important cases.

After hearing the statement of a witness for the prosecution the Court rose to re-assemble the following morning when the case was adjourned until Friday the 18th instant.

An official braggadochie has given it out that the services of two lawyers have been retained to watch the interest of Egba Government in the Sedition case pending in Court Retainer said to be about £200. One of the Lawyers it is said will leave Lagos for Abeokuta on 19/9/14 although it is reported again that the individual has volunteered to pioneer a pleasure party to a Haven of Bliss as corresponds

# The Nigerian Chronicle.

## "Government and Taxation."

Because a man is strong, and can with a mailed fist impose his will upon his fellows regardless of the consent and true interest of the latter, does not mean that such an action of the bully is justified, and exonerate him from the moral obloquy and guilt to which he has to answer before a greater than earthly tribunal. Because a man chooses to call a black thing white and what is bitter sweet and succeeds in hoodwinking his friends and gain a temporary advantage over them, does not free him from the inevitable law of nature that whatsoever a man soweth that he shall also reap. The harvest of whirlwind is sure inasmuch as one sows the wind. The man who comes upon a horde of illiterates and dreams that he chances upon a mine of wealth, and makes of himself a wolf among lambs and "lade men with burden grievous to be borne and he himself touch not the burdens with one of his fingers" is to be pitied; for with what measure he mete to others it shall be measured unto him again, and that with interest. The argument that because a leader of a nation has only a life time to live no one needs "burst a trumpet over his actions" whether those actions be disagreeable or unpleasant is the peculiar reasoning of "men in positions of high responsibility" who imagine that their positions confer on them the Divine right or monopoly to tread down on their fellows. They say that because "each man has only a limited period in his life time to exert his influence in" and during which period he may destroy the happiness of his neighbours, it is a short-sighted policy on the part of those affected to point it out or to try to avert the evil. What guarantee have the ordinary men of today to believe and hold that succeeding leaders of Government, owing to the examples and selfish successes of their predecessors, would not fall into the same error by continuing the same policy especially as the faults of the present leaders, according to these politicians, ought to be overlooked and not be questioned. Leaders of civilized Government are never allowed to perpetuate a mistake because they have only a lifetime. The removal of party Governments under a democratic constitution (such as was the native state of Abeokuta) the history of all revolutionary movements under a monarchic Government belies this political theory of *laissez faire* advisers. Positions of great responsibility is not synonymous with sagacity or wisdom nor does the one imply the other. It is wrong to assume that every leader of a nation is moved by wise, sagacious, honest and disinterested intentions in every public action. There are Leaders who, we know, prefer to sell their birthright and those of their people for a mess of pottage, for the smile and the temporary approbation of a caste.

To return to our main subject of taxation, that is the finding of money for the upkeep of the Government country. It is a political maxim that the subjects of a state ought to contribute to the support of the

government as nearly as possible that in proportion to their respective abilities; that is in proportion to the revenue which they respectively enjoy under the protection of the state.

That what each individual is bound to pay ought to be certain not arbitrary; that every tax ought to be levied at the time or in the manner in which it is most likely to be convenient for the contributor to pay it. That every tax ought to take out, and to keep out, of the pockets of the people as little as possible over and above what it brings into the public Treasury. The burden of our subsequent editorials will be to examine how far our Correspondent and the Advocates of Direct taxation in the "Nigerian Pioneer" take into their considerations these fundamental principles in their discussions. But it is necessary for us to say here that reading through their productions one is tempted to the conclusion that they are either unacquainted with these leading principles of their pet subject, or moved by a strong desire to suppress the truth in order to reach the goal of their ambition—revenue at any price—they have been led to write in such a hide and seek fashion.

To be Continued.

The Rev M. J. Elliott formerly Wesleyan Missionary in Lagos, who is a member of the Committee of the Anti-slavery and Aborigines Protection Society and of the United Committee on Native Races, and the Liquor Traffic, has removed from Berkhamsted, Herts to the Finsbury Park Circuit, London.

His many friends in Africa will be glad to have his new address:—

Rev. M. J. Elliott,  
"Fairview"  
164 Chase-side  
Southgate  
London, N

We are informed that Miss Bessie Elliott, elder daughter of the Rev. M. J. Elliott and the late Mrs Elliott was married on Thursday September 10th at Queen's Road, Wesleyan Methodist Church, Watford, England, to the Rev. A. M. Filmen of Bulawayo, Rhodesia, South Africa, and that they expect to leave England on September the 19th for their Station.

CHRISTIAN EVIDENCE LECTURES AND SERMON.  
KUMOLU HALL,  
SHITTA STREET, LAGOS.

**SUBJECT:—Freedom of the will.**

- Sunday, Sept: 27 Meaning and scope of the term.  
Man, an agent free to choose his own line of action.
- " Oct: 4 Chief objections negative—  
man's actions not controlled by his bodily organism or environment i. e. Fatalism, an absurdity.
- " " 11 Testimony of language, conscience and universal belief in God to man's free moral nature.
- " " 18 Sermon:—Man working out his salvation.

Sankey's Hymns will be used.

Service commences at 7 p.m. each day.

**E. T. Johnson.**

### THE NATIONAL RELIEF FUND

The Committee of ways and means of the above Fund have had several meetings during the week and made admirable arrangements to reach everybody. It is probable that their arrangements will include the Hinterland countries.

## London Gossip.

(From Our London Correspondent.)

### THE FLOATING MINE DANGER.

London, August 10th, 1914.

Talk has naturally turned a good deal on the damage done (principally the distressing sinking of the *Amphion*) by the floating mines laid by the Germans. It will be recalled that on the ground of its menace to neutral shipping it was proposed at The Hague Conference that the use of floating mines should be debarred in civilized warfare, and that the proposal was resisted by Germany. We cannot retaliate to any purpose with the same weapon, as some laymen have been suggesting in their indignation, because our interest, with a supreme navy and half the carrying trade of the world in our hands, is that the seas should be free, whereas Germany's interest, with her fleet bottled up and her shipping at our mercy already, is that the seas should be impassable. The best naval opinion, however, inclines to the view that this weapon has an infinitely remote chance of being used with success in the face of our overwhelming naval superiority. The curious phrase "floating mines" dates from the Russo-Japanese War. It is simply a mistranslation of the French military term. "Floating bomb," or "automatic torpedo," or "explosive body" would be a more reasonable name. There are, I believe, two types and one of them may be of use to us in the protection of our merchant shipping against German commerce destroyers. The ordinary floating mine remains permanently dangerous. Mines laid during the Russo-Japanese war went on exploding for two years afterwards, and all that time were a danger to shipping in those waters. The other type becomes inactive after an hour or two and can be used by a fleeing merchant vessel to embarrass a pursuer without creating a permanent danger to other shipping. All floating mines are exploded by more upsetting. As they float below water they are beyond the reach of wave motion.

### COLLAPSE OF FASHION AND SPORT.

London, the center of the world's luxury, has almost at a blow lost the whole trade. No one wants to buy Chippendale furniture, or Chinese vases, or Fragonard paintings, or diamond necklaces, or Paquin gowns, or to redecorate their houses or equip expeditions for big-game shooting. Fashion has for the time ceased to exist, and even the silliest has touched something serious at last. There is nobody so poor or so wealthy that the last few days have not awakened him to naked realities. Everyone is now a prospective soldier, and until the Stock Exchange opens nobody knows what his securities may be worth, and all foreign investments have ceased to mean dividends. The collapse to fashionable trade has come without intermediate stages. Prosperous artists suddenly find that dealers will not buy pictures. One of the best millinery houses in the West End pleads with its customers not to be too economical, for the firm will have to discharge its employees if its trade remains as it is. The staffs in many of the houses in Dover Street and Grafton Street are now reduced to their proprietors. Jewelers are knocking down their stock, booksellers (except for war

books and maps) are doing nothing, and "fancy goods" and silverware shops see a further drop in receipts each day. People are finding how much they can do without. Sports and all its army of dependents and its supply trade is gone. Nearly all its votaries have now gone, and are in camp or drilling in the city spaces. And all this has happened in less than a week! Some-time the newsboys in the streets will find themselves accidentally in the old manner shouting "Wiener!" when they rush along with the battle news.

## The Privy Council.

### WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT DOES.

To begin the history of the Privy Council at the very beginning is almost to begin the history of England. For really the origin and idea of the Privy Council goes back very far. In the old days it was simply the Government. It was in the Norman days known as the *Anla Regia*, or the *Curia Regia*; it was the Executive. It was the Court of the King—the "legal" court, through which he ruled the whole nation.

Gradually, as time rolled on, the judicial, executive, legislative, and political functions were separated from each other, and assigned to different bodies. The first order of the Privy Council, of which we possess any record, was given in the reign of Richard, 1386. The minutes of the Council were kept almost as they are to-day.

They show as a photograph the doings of those days. And like in photo, petty details are exaggerated, whilst great matters are almost left untouched. And yet they are invaluable, and perhaps on that very account, as giving us, almost unconsciously, a glimpse into those far-off days.

There are one or two gaps. For instance: from 1460 to 1540 there is a long blank. The effect produced by this gap is to place side by side two most different eras of English history. The weakness of the last Lancastrian is brought into striking contrast with the most powerful of the Tudors.

Then again, the Privy Council took no notice whatever of the Protectorate of Cromwell. The Council was held wherever Charles II. might happen to be during his wanderings through France, Belgium, or the Channel Isles.

The advantages of being Privy Councillor are chiefly honorary. A Privy Councillor has a right to serve as a magistrate in any country, whether he is qualified by residence or possession of land or not. He obtains a *Dedimus protestamur* from the Lord Chancellor, and he is allowed to wear a very smart uniform.

It also gives a certain precedence. Ordinary Privy Councillors—Commoners—rank after Knights of the Garter and the elder sons of barons. Peers, of course, go according to their rank in the peerage.

The Lord Chancellor comes next to the Archbishop of Canterbury, then comes the Archbishop of York then the Lord President, and after him the Lord Privy Seal. This precedence had its origin many hundreds of years ago, in the reign of Henry VIII.

The nature of the affairs transacted by the Council are so very varied that it is difficult to deal with them in a concise manner. The duties comprise all kinds of prerogative and statutory proceedings, from proclaiming the accession of the Sovereign to the regulation of the lights of fishing boats, and including Admiralty business, quarantine, Colonial currency, grants of municipal and other charters, Colonial appeals, schemes of the Ecclesiastical and Charity Commissioners, burial orders, etc.

A large portion of the work of the Council Office is of a confidential character, and great discretion and a thorough knowledge of all precedents is required to answer the questions of those who call daily for information.

One thing to note specially is a thing not generally known. There are orders *in* Council and orders *of* Council. Orders *in* Council are made by the King himself in Council; orders *of* Council are made by the Lords of the Council. To the King in Council is at times left the decision whether a given Act shall be put in force.—*Liverpool Export Journal*.

### Letter to Society Folks.

BY A MAN OF THE WORLD.

TO A CLUB SECRETARY, ABOUT TO RESIGN.

[ *With apologies to Geoffrey Palmer.* ]

Dear Mr. OREB,

Ever since you confided to me your intention of resigning the Secretariat of your Club I have intended to write you but business has been pretty pressing lately and though I have between whiles thought a bit about your problem, I've had no time to set my thoughts in order.

Generally speaking, when a man wants to resign an Office he should resign. The smooth running of Club wheels largely depends upon the happiness and contented dispositions of the members of that Society over which the Officials are empowered to rule. If men are not at home in their Office they should clear out. If they no longer represent the good will of the people, or if they are automatic in their representation, or if they have exhausted their energy and lost the essential plus element of personal interest, they would be better for a rest and an open-air cure. So would a Secretary.

When Association becomes an intolerable strain to officers and people a change of government is advisable. When the man gets lost in the official the time has come for the man to resign his office. The most offensive thing about an official is his officiousness. And officiousness, being an artificial production, is a sign of bad health. There is a feverish activity, accompanied by a low vitality. The face is flushed, breathing bad, the pulse irregular, heart erratic, and the speech delirious. In the calm detachment of my days I often watched the signs of impending resignation—and have sometimes feared it would not come until the final evil had been wrought in the man or to

But I am bound to ask is it true these signs are to be found in you? Are your intentions a surprise? Are you officious, and feverish? You seem to me in good health and you ought to be a representative man. I cannot now say whether your heart is in your work or your disposition is happy. There may be obvious reasons along this line for your threatened resignation.

There is a tendency in Civil Servants and you will not mind my saying, especially in secretaries—to let the democratic develop into the demagogic. The tendency is not altogether confined to retired military men and to erstwhile Volunteer officers, though it may be more marked in them.

Take a master-man who has necessarily developed a masterful air and a commanding tone as a corporation 'ganger' or a shepwalker, a police-sergeant or a schoolmaster, a managing director of a company or a host of other honourable employment, and make him a civil servant and if he has lived for his living with little regard for his life, he will carry the marks of his calling into his new relations, where his secular virtue becomes an unspeakable vice.

I know this as an outsider. You must know it intimately from introspection as an open-eyed official. And what makes me seem cynical should make you very charitable.

It seems a shame to confess it, but in a strange place, generally in momentary flashes when the opening voluntary has been dull and the offertory voluntary the reverse of worshipful, or the anthem poorly rendered, or the sermon unarresting—sometimes, though not often, all this happens at a single service—I have found myself attaching occupations and antecedents, temperaments to the sidesmen who showed people to their pews, the deacons who followed the parson into the church, and the stewards who pass the plate. Sometimes, by accident, I have found myself delightfully wrong. Sometimes deplorably right.

That man, I whispered to my wife, under cover of an earthquake, a thunderstorm, a charge of artillery, the rears of a football crowd, the cheers of a political meeting, and other things of which the organist was speaking, with a mistaken method of inducing the mood of worship—that man that taketh up the aisles as a very little thing is a Volunteer officer an Ex Pilot of a wrecked Schooner. It was before the days of Territorials.

Do you know him? she asked.

I do, I replied prevaricatingly. Too well.

I am free to tell you the story of a Secretary I met on holiday the other day. His case was like yours and he was on the point of resigning. It is wonderful how many of you there are.

His difficulties were just like yours—difficulties with the Burgomaster with the people, old and young, with the general organisations of Government but not with his fellow officials who are members of the Mutual society. The difficulty was not personal but official. And I gathered that there would have been little or no difficulty if there had been no nocturnal meetings of an Advisory Board. The storm-centre in the Tin Kettle Parliament was the Secretary who is also the young Aide-de-camp to the Burgomaster. There were internal dissensions, dissensions that were personal rather than official. The Burgomaster was

inclined to let him boss things that didn't matter, to let him seem to have his own way, to treat him like a big baby or like an unwise woman. And the secretary was one with the Burgomaster. He said that the Burgomaster and he could manage the Chief perfectly by simply seeming to let him command. The bully who is three-parts coward is the other part fool. Anyhow, this man was blind in spots.

But two or three of the other officials wouldn't have it. They not only wanted their own way, but they wanted to boast about it before the 'boss.' And he would rage like an angry bull. And they would wave the red rags of defiance and spike him with sarcastic speech, and the peace and prosperity within the walls of Zion owed nothing to the meeting of the Advisory Board. It was only the *tour de force* behind the Burgomaster that made success possible. And the secretary feared that even he was getting sick of the strain of driving a dissatisfied team round and round a meaningless and useless routine.

'As for myself,' quoth the secretary, 'I am giving up. My resignation will lead to questions. There may even be a row. But the air will be cleared, and meanwhile

'Meanwhile' I interrupted, 'meanwhile, I suppose the Burgomaster will bear the brunt and possibly play the scapegoat?'

For I had noticed that the Burgomaster pays for professional squabbles in a certain loss of favour with his people. It is assumed that the official's want of sympathy and lack of management account for the dissension.

'On the contrary,' he replied 'I shall make it clear that he is not responsible, and I shall so word my note of resignation as to strengthen his position.'

'But,' I argued, 'the fact of the resignation will be known to all, and the cause to few, and the terms

to fewer still, and the Burgomaster will be blamed. By the way' I asked, 'he knows of your intention?'

'No. I'm am going to write him a personal note by the same post. I'm afraid he'll be suprised.'

Ultimately this was accomplished. I learned the details by correspondence.

'And did he cease from troubling?' I asked the Burgomaster whom I met some months after up the Vladivostock.

'A state is n't heaven, Mr Palmer,' was the evasive but sufficiently suggestive reply.

I fancy you might find a moral in this story. Anyhow, I am not sure that it would be pity for you to resign. You are in sympathy with the Burgomaster you have not the confidence of the people; for this say you do not know your work.

You won't mind my saying it—I am not perfectly satisfied with you. It does not seem to me that you have made the secretarial office just what it should be in a country. There are too many haphazard happenings. Things just happen outside or inside the realm you have made your own.

You see what I mean? There is a cleft between Government and club, Government and society, Government and church, Government and freedom, Government and social customs of the country Government and Education Government and almost every organisation. There is tremendous scope for secretarial ministry of true progress and co-ordination you have not done this you have the skill; what is more you lack is the essential grace, the knack of getting on with people. You may resign because you have n't fulfilled your ministry otherwise anticipate plenty of official worry ahead.

Very Faithfully,

G. P.

### Acknowledgment of Donation to Schoolmasters' Appeal

25, Bankole Street,  
Lagos, 8th September, 1914.

Dear Mr. Editor,

Kindly permit me some space in your valuable journal to express my sincere thanks to the following gentlemen whom I pray God may bless for their kind response to my Association's appeal:—

July 18 No 72	0 5 0	Aug. 1 No 175	0 1 6
" 21 " 106	0 2 0	" " " 180	0 1 0
" " " 167	0 2 6	" " " Mr. Emanuel C. Ajose	0 10 6
" 22 " 65	1 1 0	" 4 No 354	0 2 6
" 23 Mr. W. B. Allen	0 1 0	" 5 " 124	0 1 0
" 31 No 183	0 1 0	" " " "	0 1 6
" " " 181	0 2 6	" " " 97	0 1 0
" " Mr. D. A. Ogunbiyi	0 1 0	" " " 140	0 2 0
" " No 131	0 2 0	" 6 Mr. Fadiya Okoya	0 10 0
" " " 128	0 1 0	" " No 276	0 1 0
" " " 126	0 1 0	" 14 Mr. S. H. A. Doherty	0 5 0
" " " 100	0 1 0	" 18 " Thos. F. Olukotun	0 2 6
" " " 129	0 1 0	" " " J. A. Ajose	0 5 0
" " " 360	0 2 0	" " " R. A. Williams	0 10 6
" " " 33	0 5 0	" 28 No 50	0 5 0
Aug 1 No 203	0 1 0	" 30 " 358	0 5 0
" " " 74	0 5 0	Sep 2 No 35	0 5 0
" " " 130	0 1 0	" " " 321	0 2 6
" " " 177	0 1 0	" 3 Mr. Ebenezer A. Sule	0 1 0
" " " 176	0 1 0	" " No 356	0 0 6
" " " 324	0 2 6		

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours respectfully,

OTHNIEL SOMEFUN,

Secretary.

Private School Headmasters Assoc.

## Things worth knowing

I

To the Editor  
The Nigerian Chronicle,  
Sir,

I should like to know:—

Why was not a reply given to the petition in which the Ijemo people narrated their grievances and craved the interference and protection of the British Government?

If the English Government had replied to the petition of the Ijemos by stating its views or holding an enquiry on their case would the recent incident have happened?

Is it a fact that some Chiefs of Ijemo have been convicted of sedition and fined £25 by the Native Court at Abeokuta?

Is it not strange that Ijemo which harboured the Government Secretary on his arrival in 1902 and until the completion of his palatial residence at Ake should be misrepresented to day as lawless people?

Is it true that an official coacher is always in the Court at Igbein Abeokuta coaching witnesses by signs what replies to give when examined or cross examined?

If it is a fact that two gold rings with masonic emblems were forcibly taken from two gentlemen when in Ijemo Police Station and sold by an Hausa Soldier?

Why was the man charged with buying the rings denied the opportunity of defending himself but ordered to be flogged 24 strokes with bilala of two strips of hide equal to 48 strokes at the Ijemo Police Station?

Why are not the rings, although they were recovered, returned to the gentlemen who own them?

Is the British Government aware that despite the personal effects of the Ijemo people taken and carried away and their houses demolished, those who are caught are fined and, unable to pay, are imprisoned?

Is it a fact that a voucher of £40-0-0 has been put in and paid at Abeokuta for the supply of 120 yams supplied daily to soldiers from the 9th August to 22nd. of the same month reckoning 1 yam for each soldier?

Why is it that when any attempt is made to pitchfork a Government Secretary from office some victims must be suggested for sacrifice on the altar of sedition? The British Government in the person of Capt — in the first instance of Ariwo and others stood against the base misrepresentation?

Yours truly

ABANIKONDA.

Ibadan, 15th September 1914.

II

To the Editor of  
The Nigerian Chronicle,  
Sir,

I should like to be informed whether there is any truth in the following rumour:—

If it is fact that some persons connected with the editing of papers hold brief for Egba Government?

If it is true that their retainer is influencing the opinion of their papers on the all important subjects of the moment or on any matter affecting Egba Government?

If this could be taken as a sufficient cause for people who send correspondence to them for insertion to cleverly withhold their identity?

Yours truly,

OJUMITO.

Abeokuta, 16th September, 1914.

## Concerning the Ijemo Incident.

Lagos,  
September 17, 1914.

Dear Mr. Editor,

I am sending the enclosed letter for publication in your Journal of the 18th instant as I believe it would help on the cause we all have so much at heart.

Wishing that cause every success and more grease to your elbow.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,  
A NATIVE.

(ENCLOSURE.)

Abeokuta,  
September 14, 1914.

My dear X,

As we hear of a Magistrate coming up soon to make preliminary investigation re the Ijemo affair I think it is necessary that the Egba children and the public helping at Lagos should see to the following:—

1. There should be a Barrister present on the people's behalf during the investigation as that sort of business would be strange to the man in the street here who would be required to give evidence.

2. That the Government be approached in Lagos about people who are detained as Unconvicted prisoners about the town here, and who are likely to be used on behalf of the Egba Government.

3. That some guarantee be given to witnesses that they will not be subject to persecution on the spot because they give evidence.

4. Some of the people of Ijemo are being dragged about by the Alake and fines are being extorted from them.

The presence of a Barrister here for the Ijemo is sure to check such excesses. The witnesses now in Lagos should be assisted to appear too—

X

X

X

Yours affectionately,  
ABEOKUTA.

## It will be a great LOSS to every MERCHANT

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**Hamburg 36**

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**Importers** of all kinds of Produce

**One thing and another.**

BY ALAPARA.

If the favourite exclamation of a certain official is 'agbako' I wonder what he is saying now. The consensus of opinion is that he is a veritable agbako to the benighted United States.

If Jonah sleeping in the chief cabin of the ship to Tarshish was found out much more the Ostrich-like personality who is hiding his head in the bush whilst his whole person is exposed to view.

"Woe is me if I preach not the gospel." Is this preacher still alive? *Tempora mutantur et nos mutantur in illis.* By the way is the Preacher presently engaged as an Engineer or Pilot in a certain ship? How easily would the ship and the apostate meet their doom if they had sailed on alien waters!

"Demas has forsaken me having loved the things of this world" was a *repartee* given to an Abeokuta swagger on a festive occasion. The wise man whose business is gingerly to distribute false news or whose brain is a mint for coining misrepresentations had to slunk and heal his real pain with champagne at the expense of the host.

After all the vilification; the last extremity of a man of tongues is to eat up his vomit. The stone which the builders refused has become the head stone of the corner. *Ko pada*, Why were not his services retained all the time as a Legal Adviser? How dearly was he loved by a paramount Chief! His hospitality is proverbial. But the wicked unruly tongue of the artful dodger—the tongue that knows no ending the cheerless life is his—was responsible for the unpopularity.

**HOTEL De L'EUROPE**  
**Kakawa street, Lagos**

Lodgers will be received in above Hotel from 1st September next on the following terms:—

charges moderate

Rooms comfortable

Special arrangements for permanent Lodgers.

**A Home from Home.**

Special arrangements can also be effected for Board and Lodging from £2. 10. 0 per month in a comfortable Home.

Communications must be addressed to the Proprietor  
4, Martin Street, Lagos.

**NOTICE**

RE ESTATE OF  
**MARY AWOJODU,**  
**(Deceased),**

Pursuant to the provision  
of the Law of Property  
Amendment Act, 1859.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands upon or against the estate of **MARY AWOJODU**, late of Agrawa Street, Lagos, in the Colony of Nigeria on the West Coast of Africa, deceased, who died on or about the 6th day of October, 1913, at her residence aforesaid, and Probate of whose last Will was on the 22nd day of October, 1913, granted by the Supreme Court of the Colony aforesaid, to **JACOB FAKOLUJO** of Aroloya Lane, Lagos, Nigeria, sole Executor therein named, are requested to send in particulars of their claims and demands in writing to me at my residence aforesaid on or before the 10th day of November 1914, at the expiration of which time I will proceed to pay and distribute the assets of the said Testatrix among the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which I shall then have notice, and that I will not be liable for the assets or any part thereof so distributed to any person of whose claims I shall not then have had notice.

And all persons indebted to the said estate are hereby required to make immediate payment to me.

Dated at Lagos, this 10th day of September, 1914.

**Jacob Fakolujo**  
**EXECUTOR**

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*The*  
**Nigerian Chronicle.**

Vol. VI.

September 25, 1911

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To

Let

**THE NIGERIAN CHRONICLE**

A weekly review of progress in politics, economics and commerce; and of general news especially as affecting Nigeria

Edited by CHRIS. JOHNSON

Publishing Office:

**Kumolu House  
Shitta Street, Lagos,  
Nigeria.**

**Post Office Box No. 253**

To Subscribers.— In the work of gathering news and notes on current events the Editorial Department of THE NIGERIAN CHRONICLE solicits the co-operation of subscribers and advertisers from whom they will always be pleased to receive information, personal or general, likely to interest readers.

To Advertisers:—THE NIGERIAN CHRONICLE is published every Friday. To ensure insertion in the current issue, copy of alterations for advertisements should arrive at the publishing Office, at 8. a. m. of Wednesday. Advertising rates are furnished on application.

**All communications to be addressed to the Editor, at the publishing office**

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HOME 13s. ABROAD 15s including postage  
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**NEWS OF THE WEEK**

**HOME.**

A meeting of the Legislative Council was convened yesterday at 2.30 p.m. at the Council Chamber.

The following Gentlemen have been appointed provisionally members of the Council:—Messrs S. J. Sawyer W. A. Evans and W. Wallace.

It is wrong argument to say that because the Provincial Courts Ordinance does not apply to Areas where the Supreme Court has jurisdiction therefore the proposed law cannot be discussed as to its righteousness or unrighteousness.

A definition of anything to be correct must be *per genus et differentiam*, therefore unalterable at any time.

We acknowledge which thanks Copies of the "A.P.O." the official organ of the African Political Organisation of South Africa.

We regret to learn that a son of Mr. and Mrs T. E. Thomas had an accident which terminated fatally. The little boy, it is said, was playing with a table cloth on which was standing a Kerosine Lamp. It fell on him, blazed, and badly burnt his clothes and person. He subsequently died from the effects.

This is about the second or third time to our recollection of such fatal accidents. We beg to suggest the following precautions which may be adopted to avoid such accidents terminating fatally:—

Throw a strong cloth, canvas or blanket preferable, over the individual and have him immediately wrapped up with it tightly.

Where this is not handy roll the individual quickly on the floor or where sand is available you may roll him on the sand or throw a lot of it over him to cover up the blazing cloth.

The idea of these methods is to cut off the oxygen of the air from the flame and so prevent further combustion.

On no account must water be used as it has the effect of spreading the flame. The burning lamp or any inflamed vessel should be covered up completely with a pot to procure the same effect. This latter suggestion may be of interest to cooks and housewives.

**News from ABEOKUTA**

The Preliminary Investigation in the case of Seditior brought against Messrs A. B. Green and E. Soyemi Alder was brought to a close on Tuesday when it was committed for the Assizes. Mr. Kitoyi Ajasa B.L. was present in Court during the latter days of the Investigation and seemed much interested.

Mr. Moore has already left here for Lagos and Mr. Shyngle is here at this writing.

On the arrival of Mr. E. Soyemi Alder last Friday at Lafenwa Station he was met by a Police Escort who accompanied him to the Court. Mr. A. B. Green who alighted at Aro walked up to the Court himself. They have since been re-arrested and kept at Igbein Hill Prison Yard. They are allowed this time their food from home and bedding.

In connection with the case of Seditior a Mr. Edward Green has also been charged and tried along with the other two gentlemen.

Among the witnesses examined on behalf of the prosecution were the Alake, One Asoli, (the Ntoye of Ijemo and the Chief next to the Oluwo of Ijemo).

It is reported here that an Order of Court for the release of Messrs E. S. Alder and A. B. Green on bail arrived yesterday but effect had not been given to it.

It is the rumour in some circle that the Commissioner has sailed for Europe. This report has been contradicted by some people who ought to know.

The active propagandists of certain theories have begun to be questioning the efficiency of their tactics. The dash for the pole, they say, is imminent. However it is best to watch calmly their activities from the heights. Eternal vigilance is said to be the price of freedom. Honesty is the best policy and truth must prevail.

**OBITUARY**—Mrs E. Craig mother of Mr Isaac Sodeyinde on Thursday the 17th instant.

**THANKS FOR SYMPATHY.**

Mrs. Bernice Houghton and Mr. J. T. Clegg on behalf of their family beg to thank the public for sympathy with them expressed by letters, visits and telegrams during the bereavement of their late husband and cousin J. T. Houghton which took place at his residence Oshodi Street on Sunday the 13th instant.

Senhores Joaquim Francisco Branco, Francisco Buko Branco and Brothers beg to announce with the deepest regret the death of their beloved mother Madam Bohevi Vunaho which sad event took place on the 12th day of August 1914 in the town of Asante in the District of Agoagon in the Mahin Countries in French Dahomey at the age of 90 years.

R.I.P.

# The Nigerian Chronicle.

## "Government and Taxation."

### II

The funds for the upkeep of a Government are necessarily raised by several devices which should receive the sanction of the people, and subject to the maxims set out in our last editorial, one of which is that the subjects of every state ought to contribute to the support of Government as nearly as possible that in proportion to their respective abilities, that is in proportion to the revenue which they respectively enjoy under the protection of the state. Among the forms hitherto adopted in Southern Nigeria and which are known to us are 1 Customs Duties (Specific and Ad valorem i. e. taxes raised on luxuries and a few necessary articles of consumption.) 2 Warehousing Dues. 3 Harbour, Light House, and Buoyage Dues. 4 Licenses and Internal Revenue (including Auctioneers, Boats and Canoes, Dog, Gun, Liquor, Marriage, Mining, Rubber, &c. Fines of Court, Fines on Mechanics &c. Stamp Duties.) 5 Fees of Court including Court Fees Customs Fees Forestry Fees, Hospital Fees, Land and Survey Fees, Marriage Fees, Wrecks and Salvor's Registration Fees, Sheriff's Fees, Survey of Shipping Fees, Trade Mark Fees, Weights and Measures Fees, etc. etc. 6 Fees from offices (including Transport, Electric Light Dues, and other Receipts, Government Telegraphs, Telephones, Wharves, Vessels, Launch Services, Motor, Marine, Storages, etc. etc. 7 Postal Revenue 8 Rents, 9 Interest on Loans, Railways, 10 Sales (Royalties Concessions and Leases of Government Lands) 11 Miscellaneous Sources.

The dues from the foregoing sources from which the Government derives its revenue are paid in the first instance by some people. Where these payers are able to recover what they had paid to Government from some other people, the tax or impost paid by them is said to be INDIRECT; whilst to the individual from whom the payments are recovered it is a direct tax. All payments that cannot be recovered from, or passed over to, another individual are DIRECT taxes.

There are some more devices not adopted in Southern Nigeria by which the Government of other countries sends its officials from house to house to collect monies from individual subjects, which said payments cannot be passed over to other individuals, and they are what our correspondent and the "Nigerian Pioneer" advocates are anxious that we and all West Africa should have a taste of. We have a saying to the effect that there is no necessity for a native to go all the way to Europe for Palm Oil or Palm Kernel when he can get what he wants from the Store next to his door. To advocate these new devices just for the fun of the "experience" where people had known what it means from the experience of others is not only a waste of energy but a misdirected enthusiasm which must end in failure and disappoint-

ment as in the Palm Kernel illustration. No reasonable person, and with his wits about him, would sit calmly and begin to think or ask himself how am I going to increase my difficulties? He would be a strange creature indeed who addresses to himself such a question without having a greater and agreeable end in view towards which the difficulties are to be means or stepping stones. And besides the good must first all be an end willed by the individual and an object of desire to him.

It may be advanced as we have often heard, it alleged that the idea of the introduction of this new device is to teach Self Government and independence. The payment of the special taxes suggested does not, and cannot, of itself confer the knowledge of any system of Government without an actual launching by the people into the system itself. You cannot keep a thing going before you create it or before you give it existence. Taxes as something intended for the upkeep of Government you cannot create until the Government—self-Government in this instance—has actually been called into existence. And what guarantee have we that self-Government would be granted in the face of pregnant statements as the following:—

".....in dependencies where the native element represents an overwhelming majority it would be dangerous to grant the natives voting powers equal to that of the whites, for such a course would end as it has always ended, in industrial stagnation".

".....on the strength of the clause in the Grandvet which expressly refused to tolerate equality between the white and black races in either Church or State, it was held that Natives could not legally hold land".

To us "The problem" is not much one of Direct Taxation as the question whether the Natives are in a position to pay any additional impost: whether the natives on whom the proposed burden is aimed at is not already contributing to the support of the Government proportionally more than the revenues they enjoy under the protection of the state and out of proportion to their respective abilities. Whether the proposed impost as a "Social Weapon"—so said their advocates—probably to compel labour and drive people to the farm is not after all a breach of political Economy which cannot lead to social, moral, and therefore political success? Whether this proposed impost is not intended to lower, and would not lower, the value of land according to the law of Economics, drive their native owners out, and make them over to foreign owners who are now so anxious to seek a permanent habitat in this our region of the world?

"In this instance," said the Nigerian Pioneer, "probably, the main reason for taxation was not the motive underlying the imposition. It seems probably that it was a theory of social ethics rather than a need for money that instigated it." These are words replete with meaning the true motive being completely veiled. But to the thinker it takes him no time to penetrate into the recesses of the writer's thoughts to notice what forces are operating therein. You cannot teach social morality by errors in taxation by interfering with the liberty of the citizen. By such an imposition, slavery in an insidious form can be the only result as is the case in East Africa where people, to be able to pay their taxes, are compelled to submit to a condition of labour which obtains in that country. This is one of the ultimate results which must follow in the train of taxation for "social ethics" now recommended by our political bureaucracy.

To be Continued,

## Treaty of 1893 recognising the Independence of Abeokuta.

The following is the text of the Treaty recognising the Independence of Abeokuta made between His Majesty's Government and the Egba (Native) Government:—

### ABEOKUTA

TREATY of Friendship and Commerce made at Abeokuta in the Egba Country, this 18th (Eighteenth) day of January, in the Year 1893.

Between HIS EXCELLENCY GILBERT THOMAS CARTER, Esquire, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Lagos, for, and on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, &c., Her Heirs and Successors on the one part, and the undersigned King (Alake) and Authorities of Abeokuta representing the Egba Kingdom, for and on behalf of their Heirs and Successors on the other part. We the undersigned King and Authorities do, in the presence of the Elders, Headmen, and people assembled at this place hereby promise:—

1st. That there shall be peace and friendship between the subjects of the Queen and Egba subjects, and should any difference or dispute accidentally arise between us and the said subjects of the Queen it shall be referred to the Governor of Lagos for settlement as may be deemed expedient.

2nd. That there shall be complete freedom of Trade between the Egba Country and Lagos, and in view of the injury to commerce arising from the arbitrary closing of roads, we the said King and Authorities, hereby declare that no roads shall in future be closed without the consent and approval of the Governor of Lagos.

3rd. That we the said King and Authorities pledge ourselves to use every means in our power to foster and promote trade with the Countries adjoining Egba and with Lagos.

4th. That we the said King and Authorities will as heretofore, afford complete protection, and every assistance and encouragement to all Ministers of the Christian religion.

5th. It is further agreed and stipulated by the said Gilbert Thomas Carter on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen of England, that so long as the provisions of this Treaty are strictly kept, no annexation of any portion of the Egba Country shall be made by Her Majesty's Government without the consent of the lawful Authorities of the Country, no aggressive action shall be taken against the said Country, and its independence shall be fully recognised.

6th. The said King and Authorities having promised that the practise of offering human sacrifices shall be abolished in the one township where it at present exists and having explained that British Subjects have already freedom to occupy land, build houses, and carry on trade and manufacture in any of the Egba Country, and likewise that there is no possibility of a cession of any portion of the Egba Country to a Foreign Power without the consent of Her Majesty's Government, it

is desired that no special provision be made in regard to these subjects in this Treaty.

Done at Abeokuta this Eighteenth day of January, 1893.

his  
OSOKALU X King Alake  
mark.

his  
OSUNDARE Onlodo X  
mark.

his  
BORUNKE Jaguna X  
mark.

his  
OGUNDEYI Magaji X  
mark.

Representatives of  
King Alake and Egba  
United Kingdom. †

G. T. CARTER,  
Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Colony of Lagos.

Witnessed at Abeokuta this Eighteenth day of January, 1893.

G. B. HADDON-SMITH,—Political Officer.

R. L. BOWER, Captain,—Asst. Inspector, Lagos Constabulary.

J. B. WOOD,—Missionary of the Church Missionary Society.

A. L. HETHERSETT,—Clerk & Interpreter, Governor's Office.

E. R. BICKERSTETH,—Trader

W. F. TINNEY SOMOYE,—Clerk to the Egba Authorities

I the undersigned do swear that I have truly and honestly interpreted the terms of the foregoing treaty to the contracting parties, in the Yoruba language.

A. L. HETHERSETT

Witness to Signature,

E. R. BICKERSTETH,—Trader.

## The Future of Africa

BY SIR HARRY JOHNSTON, K.C.B.

I have often been asked to write on the past and the present of Africa, but never, so far, of the future. Yet in the present we are preparing for the future. Although there must be many causes and currents which we cannot take into consideration or control and the ultimate shaping of the future of man in that wonderful continent may be quite different to anything which we are consciously creating; nevertheless, here as in our own land, we are given the very great responsibility of acting so that our deeds and words must in a measure lead to results good or bad, and consequently play a considerable part in the preparation of the future.

I suppose this is the main question, reduced to its essentials, which we are beginning to debate in our minds: Shall the African continent belong mostly to the white or Caucasian race, or shall it be almost entirely the domain of the black man? The Power that is shaping the future of this planet, and in whose hands we are only one of innumerable instruments—though, perhaps, the most important—may be steering for a third course—an Africa populated by races that are compounds in varying degrees

†N.B. The present members of the Alake's Council are Government nominees and are paid officials.

between the Caucasian and the Ethiopian, with a considerable proportion of the Asiatic Caucasoid thrown in. A general mixing up of human races has occurred over and over again in the immeasurably long history of man's gradual colonisation of the world. There were negroid, if not actually negro, races once in Western and Southern Europe, in Syria, Persia, and India; while the Malay Archipelago and, even more, Papuasia, Melanisia, and Eastern Australia are still partially peopled by indigenes which either belong actually to the negro subspecies or are considerably mixed with negro blood. Similarly, Europe has been colonised repeatedly both prehistorically, and historically, by Mongol tribes—of the long-headed or Eskimo type, or the round-headed Finn and Tartar. Similarly, the invasion of Africa by the white man is not a feature dating back only a few hundred years ago to the Portuguese discoveries, or to the Arab invasions of the Dark Ages, or the still earlier occupation of North Africa by the Hamite and the Berber. We have reason to believe that the Caucasian subspecies of man found his way into Africa from the direction of Syria and Arabia, Sicily and Malta—once joined with Tunis—and Southern Spain, far back in early Neolithic and Palaeolithic times.

And the results of all these invasions, ancient and modern, are the many intermediate types of man to be found in Africa at the present day—handsome, dark-skinned people with the features of the white man, pale-skinned races of the most hideous negro or Australoid type, fair-haired, blue-eyed white men, dark-haired, brown-eyed Europeans. Already the whole of Northern Africa, from the Mediterranean and Atlantic coasts to the fifteenth degree of north latitude, belongs more appropriately to the domain of the Caucasian peoples than to that of the negro, so far as its race elements are concerned. In Egypt at the present day there are at least 2,000,000 of the population who are as much European in race and speech as the natives of Southern France, Italy, and Greece. In British East Africa there are said to be nearly 6,000 white colonists; in British, French, and German West Africa, about the same number. In the Portuguese possessions of South-East and South-West Africa there must be another 10,000 of pure white stock. There are said to be 15,000 white men and women—officials, missionaries, and traders—in the whole of the Congo Basin; and in British South Africa, between the frontiers of the Congo State and the Southern Ocean, there is a population of over 2,000,000 whites almost entirely of the North European type. Add to these the 25,000 Germans, mostly congregated in South-West Africa and the remainder in East Africa and the Kamerun, and the 4,000,000 of French, Italian, Maltese, and Spanish colonists in North Africa, and you have a present-day population of purely white European origin at least 8,062,000. Even dissociating them from the 17,000,000 of Caucasoids—that is to say, of Africans who, though mainly of Caucasian race, are tinged with ancient negro intermixture so that they are of dark complexion, though "white" in intelligence, instincts, and bias of mind—you must count this eight millions as a potent element in the future population of Africa.

White colonisation of North Africa, despite occasional checks and discouragements, goes on steadily increasing. The French, Italians, Spaniards, Maltese, and Greeks of North Africa and Egypt, have large families, and they are healthy and prosperous. The same may

be said of the vigorous Dutch, British, and German colonists of South Africa. Already there is an inclination on the part of the white men of North and of South Africa to push their interests into the very heart of the continent, chiefly along lines of railway; but hitherto there is no evidence that the white race will be able really to colonise and to perpetuate itself in tropical Africa, to the south or to the north of 23½° on either side of the Equator. It is not entirely a matter of heat; a moderately cool and sometimes bracing climate can be found under the Equator or well within the tropics, on the many high mountains and the vast plateaus which constitute so much of the surface of Central Africa. Even in steamy West Africa, behind the marshes and forests of Senegambia and Liberia, there is a region of comparative elevation—3,000 to 4,000 feet—already partially colonised by a semi-white race, the Fulas; and there are other plateau regions of the same altitude in the heart of Eastern Nigeria. But between the Cameroons on the west and the Zanzibar coast on the east, and thence southwards to beyond the Southern Tropic, a considerable portion of Central Africa is, so far as temperature and climate are concerned, quite as well adapted to white colonisation as is the case with Queensland and with many parts of Central and South America.

To be Continued

### Concerning the House Rule Ordinance.

#### A CRY FROM THE CENTRAL PROVINCE OF OLD SOUTHERN NIGERIA.

(Printed as submitted.)

Dear Mr Editor,

I beg most respectfully to submit the information of the public through the medium of your invaluable journal the following:—

That rumour says the House Rule Ordinance will look somewhat difference in 1915 or will be repealed thus:—That there will be no more house member, maidservants and manservants will be no more. If this is a true story, Mr Editor then the English Bible appears to be a deceiving one in the minds of the Nigerian wise men in general, they the English brought the Bible to us, and asked us to believe that it was a book containing the true message of our "Creator" And to our surprise they are dishonouring it in many ways in the eyes of us Nigerian.

1. They keep no sabbath day Holy. The hardest work they do on sundays, but calling same to be of necessary, Native.

2. House Rule, in what way could this Rule be repeal.

First of all, let me refer matters to their (English) Bible, that Joseph was sold. Did the buyer of Joseph asks his brethren to sell he the individual one, or his brethren offered him for sale? And what happened after he has been sold? The very Bible tells us that he after all, though slave, he was, fed his brethren that sold him, in the land where he was made a slave, lastly, he was made a richman.

This is the actual case in Nigeria with slaves thereof, many of the slaves in Nigeria were rich men they did not become rich only in gold and silver, live stocks, but also they redeem slaves as themselves and all lives happy and content.

If slaves in Nigeria be set free, where would they go? First to start with, they have no land of their own. Majority of slaves were redeemed at their age of 6 years old they don't know their parents land or would they go to Europe? when European are leaving their own far far countries, with the mind of "can't help all for belly trouble," sailing to Nigeria in quantities for their livelihood.

I am a slave, and I redeemed so many slaves and became a richman now, when I set free from my master, then my own slaves will also be freed from me. The question is if they will like to part from me, or could I on earth part with my master or his son, in whose good luck I became a richman by Providence.

The only way I see is, if any slaves of mine refuses to stay with me let him redeem himself and get off from my master's land. Same I'll do if my master illtreat me. And this is the only way I see that it will please God our maker. For my master did toil under the rain and sun before he could be able to redeem me from my own cruel parents, they sold me just to get means as to feed my younger brothers and sisters. I was at the age of 6 years old when they sold me.

How could I part from my master, I can't last long on earth I'm quite sure, if I do part from him without returning his redemption money. For he will swear upon me and will cry unto God, and this will sure to bring curse on me, instead of blessing, lastly I will die a bad and sudden death who will take care of me and my children, in time of sickness, and in whose land would I bury my dead, I don't know my parents home, I can't know them if I see them. Can I hear their language? For I left them too early after I was born, in cause of their poverty.

Oh, slaves in Nigeria are alright they should remain as they are, live us to remain as we are.

For further investigations of this concern will sure to provoke God because it is the doings of Him that creates us. For he creates rich and poor, out of poor slave sprang.

This is the real point. Can I ask you to sell me your son or daughter? when you does not offer them for sell? Nevertheless.

(Sgd.) A. CHIEF.

After I have just closed my publication, an old friend who was a poor slave, and we all living in the same town came to me and relating his sad tale of woe, that his master have given him previous notice that if freedom comes, he will take away his daughter from him, this house member and his master's daughter born 5 children, and this wife served him with all her belongings. How could this separation be on earth, he asked; then I replied him that the law, if at all is coming, the result will be only to put slaves in miserable state, and die will end the rest. Since there is a law that no master should illtreat his house member and if he do, the house member should redeem himself and free from all obligations to that master, this is quite sufficient. After this we end the subject, and this friend of mine told me that he never took his meal the whole day since he had this story his master.

A CHIEF

[We publish the above to give our correspondent an opportunity of being heard. We do not in any way agree with his views or his arguments. Our readers will bear us out that we are very strong advocates of the preservation of Native customs and institutions, and of their improvements by the natives themselves, especially those who are qualified, along lines that will adapt them to meet their changing environments and fit them for the struggle of life in their own soil-inhabiting borders notwithstanding. We do not believe that a custom, however good it may be to the native when he was isolated and not exposed to the crushing whelms of modern civilization, when land-hunger and the spirit of exploitation had not driven foreigners into our shores, ought to be allowed to continue when they are being taken advantage of and used by aliens against the true interest of the nation. It is the duty of the leader who knows and is imbued with a patriotic spirit to steer the national bark from being foundered on the rock of oppression.]

We in conjunction with other local contemporaries and notably the Anti-slavery and Aborigines Protection Society of London and its Organising Secretaries the Rev. J. H. and Mrs. Harris have for years called public attention to the objectionable and inhuman change that has come upon the House Rule system since it has been backed up by Southern Nigeria Ordinance. The celebrated case of Jimmy Johnson and others brought before the Supreme Court are on record as proof of what had happened. And what we believe the Government is prepared to do now is to repeal the law it had enacted which gave abnormal power to the Head of the House and to leave him only that power—moral suasion—as the cord of love which alone can bind the members of his house to him as Head. With this idea we concur and so long as "A Chief" exercises this faculty he has nothing to fear of his men deserting him. Ed. N.C.]

### Subscription towards the Euler Ajayi Memorial Tablet

Dear Mr. Editor,

Will you allow me space in your valuable Journal to express our sincere thanks to the following Gentlemen for their kind response to the appeal made by the "Faji School Old Boys Union" on the late Revd. M. T. Euler Ajayi's Memorial Tablet suggested on the 15th of January 1914.

J. R. Shano	3	3	0
J. W. Vaughan	3	3	0
F. E. Williams	5	3	0
S. Alfred Coker	3	3	0
R. A. Williams	2	2	0
B. C. Vaughan	2	2	0
J. H. Doherty	2	2	0
E. O. Merridith	1	1	0
Edwin J. Leigh	1	1	0
A. W. Thomas	1	1	0
I. D. Bickersteth	1	1	0
H. O. Glover	1	1	0
J. T. Glegg	1	1	0
C. L. Mender	1	1	0
J. G. Keye	1	1	0
H. Liberi	1	1	0
N. E. A. Marsh	0	10	6
S. A. Fitz James	0	10	6

W. A. Olulode	0	10	6
J. C. Newland	0	10	6
N. A. Thompson	0	10	6
David W. Paul	0	10	6
Joseph O Beckley	0	10	6
R. A. Macarthy	0	10	6
C. A. Clegg	0	10	0
J. Ekundayo	0	5	0
John Lucas	0	5	0
S. E. Macaulay	0	5	0

Those who promised and do not find their names in the above receipts will kindly fulfil.

Sincerely and Respectfully Yours  
R. ANTUS WILLIAMS,  
*Secretary.*

### As Legislative Council Meeting.

#### **Important**

No. 968

Kumolu House,  
Shitta Street,  
Lagos,  
24th September, 1914.

The Clerk of Legislative Council,  
Lagos.

Sir,

Your notification announcing the Session of the Legislative Council for 2.30 p.m. of Thursday the 24th September has only been delivered at this Office by your messenger just now (4.30 p.m.) presumably after the close of the meeting.

As the public was not given the opportunity of knowing what were said at this meeting by a timely notification of the date of meeting as is the ruling, and there are Bills of such importance on the Agenda, we beg most humbly and respectfully to point out that no blame will be attached to us if in the expression of the public opinion we represent we seem to state views which leave out of consideration the speeches delivered by Government when introducing the said Bills.

We have the honour to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient Servant  
CHRIS JOHNSON  
Editor Nigerian Chronicle.

P. S. As we go to press we have received a reply which is too late for insertion in this issue. Ed. N.C.

### Things worth knowing

I

ABEOKUTA

23rd September 1914.

To the Editor

The Nigerian Chronicle

Sir,

Is it true that a native Potentate is hoodwinked into the belief that the representative of a Supreme Lord is against an Enquiry into a recent happening and that the Potentate can do what he likes?

Is it true that Free Masons in Abeokuta are bitter enemies to each other?

Is it true that a special family at Abeokuta is being persecuted with raked-up cases?

Is it true that the Nigerian Chronicle cannot be read openly in Abeokuta today by an Egba—especially the official class?

Is it true that it is a losing game to be known as an Egba?

Is it true that Edom is full of persecutions, malice hatred and all uncharitableness since Adam delved?

I am,

Yours truly,  
OJUMITO

II

Dear Mr. Editor,

I shall be much obliged if I am informed through the medium of your Journal whether the following reports and rumours are true:—

1. Whether it is a fact that up to the 24th instant people are being compelled to bear evidence in the prosecution of a particular case and also in connection with the coming Enquiry of the Ijemo incident.

2. Whether it is a fact that the Roman Catholic Sacred Hearts Hospital admits Egba Government Prisoners and the wounded people of Ijemo as in-patients from lack of proper attention and want of Drugs on the part of the Egba Government Hospital.

3. Whether it is a fact that a native Clergyman at Abeokuta is pleased with the terrible massacre at Ijemo as shown by pulpit orations &c. &c.

4. Whether it is a fact that a "Peter Pan" has been imprisoned for six months on a trumped charge by an Amalgamation conclave for stating the truth in a case which displeased the party and the victim was not allowed the opportunity of a defence.

5. Whether it is a fact that a sum of £500 taken from soldiers by an Officer with the knowledge of Mons—is still in safe ??? Custody.

6. Whether this sum 500 is portion of the venison. More and anon.

Yours Faithfully,  
EKELOJUOTI

Lagos September 25, 1914.

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We supply **Everything** to Traders, Storekeepers at

**Importers** of all kinds of Produce

**CAUTION.**

Whereas my wife Mrs. Zenobia Agboola Clegg has refused to join me at Onitsha on or about the month of April 1913, and has since been living in Isaleganga Lagos of her own accord,

I beg to inform the public generally that I shall not be responsible for debts incurred by her or for anything she may do while she is not with me.

E. T. CLEGG.

CHRISTIAN EVIDENCE LECTURES AND SERMON.  
KUMOLU HALL,  
SHITTA STREET, LAGOS.

**SUBJECT:—Freedom of the will.**

- Sunday, Sept: 27 Meaning and scope of the term.  
Man, an agent free to choose his own line of action.
- " Oct: 4 Chief objections negated—  
man's actions not controlled by his bodily organism or environments i. e. Fatalism, an absurdity.
- " " 11 Testimony of language, conscience and universal belief in God to man's free moral nature.
- " " 18 Sermon:—Man working out his salvation.

Sankey's Hymns will be used.

Service commences at 7 p.m. each day.

**E. T. Johnson.**

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**Kakawa street, Lagos**

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Special arrangements for permanent Lodgers.

**A Home from Home.**

Special arrangements can also be effected for Board and Lodging from £2. 10. 0 per month in a comfortable Home.

Communications must be addressed to the Proprietor 4, Martin Street, Lagos.

# NOTICE

RE ESTATE OF

**MARY AWOJODU,**  
**(Deceased),**

*Pursuant to the provision of the Law of Property Amendment Act, 1955.*

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands upon or against the estate of **MARY AWOJODU**, late of Agarawa Street, Lagos, in the Colony of Nigeria on the West Coast of Africa, deceased, who died on or about the 6th day of October, 1913, at her residence aforesaid, and Probate of whose last Will was on the 22nd day of October, 1913, granted by the Supreme Court of the Colony aforesaid, to **JACOB FAKOLUJO** of Aroloya Lane, Lagos, Nigeria, sole Executor therein named, are requested to send in particulars of their claims and demands in writing to me at my residence aforesaid on or before the 10th day of November 1914, at the expiration of which time I will proceed to pay and distribute the assets of the said Testatrix among the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which I shall then have notice, and that I will not be liable for the assets or any part thereof so distributed to any person of whose claims I shall not then have had notice.

And all persons indebted to the said estate are hereby required to make immediate payment to me

Dated at Lagos, this 10th day of September, 1914.

**Jacob Fakolujo**

**EXECUTOR**

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**ENGLAND.**

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**Intending Passengers** by steamers or train can be waited upon at their residence, their luggage and baggage removed to the steamers or railway station and shipped, the fares or rates paid and their passage or railway tickets procured, cabins or carriage secured, and all necessary arrangements made for them.

**Shippers** can have their goods packed for them on their premises, removed and carried to any of the Shipping Agencies weighed, the freight paid, and the packages shipped.

**Goods** can be cleared through the Customs House. Entries passed, duties paid and the goods removed and carried to the premises of the importers.

**Special Attention** will be given and facilities provided in connexion with the business to Kola Nut Traders and Native dealers and Traders in cloths of native Manufacture.

**The Agency** will pack in carefully secured cases and iron-hooped bales all Native Cloths or other goods of European or Native manufacture intended for shipment to any Ports on the West Coast, and will ship and pass Export Entries for them.

**Kola Nut Traders** have only to call at the Agency and state their requirements; the Agency will, do the rest; will clear their shipments through the Custom House remove them to their premises, and in cases of goods missing or lost, the Agency will make all enquiries on their behalf, recover where necessary.

**Cable Messages** from Great Britain or the Continent or the West Coast, received and forwarded with promptitude and despatch to all parts of Nigeria.

**The Agency** keeps a well trained, competent and reliable staff under the personal superintendence and supervision of the Head of the Agency.

No extra charge made on original expense incurred or undertaken. Only a moderate commission is charged for the service.

**Tin People.** Special attention given to Passengers for the Tin Fields of Northern Province their passages booked, luggage or baggage removed to the train or Steamers; packages cleared from Customs House, and forwarded to the nearest Railway Station in the Tin Fields.

**The Agency** provides a staff of competent men, who will wait or attend on passengers proceeding or arriving by Train or Steamers and provide facilities for removing their luggage or baggage to or from the Train or Steamers, and furnish them with Go-carts for their conveyance to their residence or hotels.

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and

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