

The Nigerian Chronicle.

No. 29 VOL. VI

June 5, 1914.

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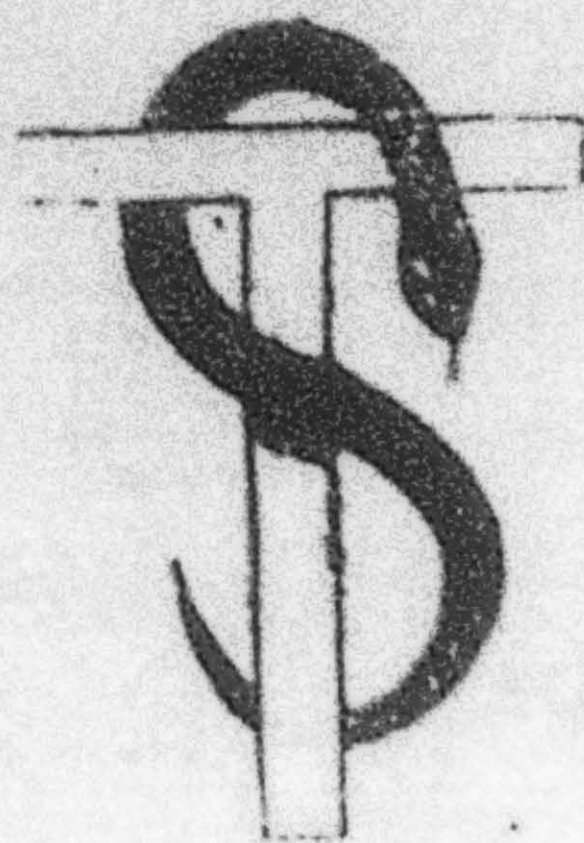
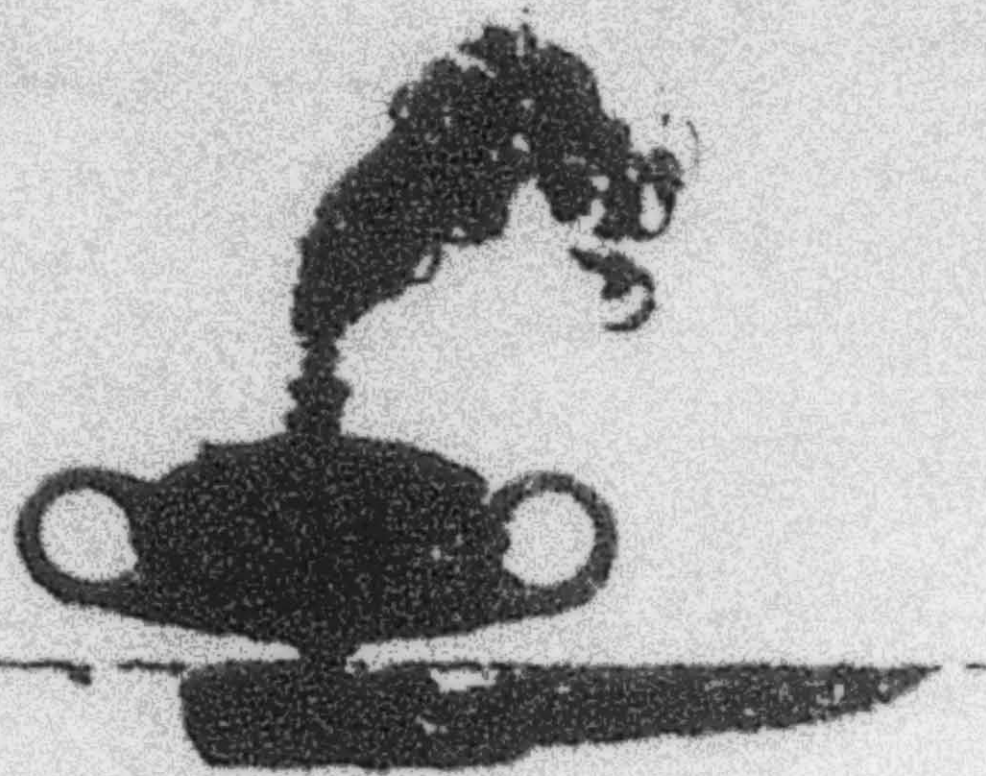
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Land Question', Mr. Cahely Hayford, a top of the class 'Gentleman' in
an able, lucid, and forcible albeit temperate manner a question to which the
West Africans are deeply interested."

To Let

Mr. H. Tukur King has just
erected at Idoluwa near the
premises of A. Thomas & Son a
Sawing Machine where he is pre-
pared to take up the sawing of
Planks for Contract and others
who may desire his services at a
in detail charge.

All applications and letters should be sent
to Mr H Tukur King at Elegbate
Idoluwa

To 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
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NEWS OF THE WEEK

HOME

Wednesday the 3rd of June, being the birthday of His Majesty the King was observed as a Public Holiday.

Notwithstanding the inclement weather which prevailed in the morning there was a parade of Troops on the Race Course when His Honour the Deputy Governor inspected. A *feu de joie* was fired and the Troops marched past. At 11 a.m. a Royal Salute of 21 guns was fired.

The Ball given by His Honour the Deputy-Governor at the Government House in honour of the day was well attended. At Supper the toast of His Majesty the King was enthusiastically drunk.

We hope to show in connection with an article in our next issue that "The Nigerian Pioneer" is a European paper voicing European sentiments.

The committee appointed by the citizens to consider the impropriety of a Water Rate and House and Land Assessment question met last Monday. At the meeting another memorandum from the Government was presented wherein it was stated that the Chiefs, contrary to the instruction given them at the General meeting, acquiesced with the imposition of the Water Rate which statement they (the Chiefs) repudiated. It was then decided that this repudiation be made to the Administrator either in person or by writing. A petition against the Government proposal is being prepared.

We have invited the attention of the Government long before this to the fact that it is a principle of Political Economy that whatever could be obtained free in nature has no money value. Air sunlight and rain water are instances of this in Lagos and Nigeria. It is therefore a wrong economy to demand money for what nature supplies free—unless the Government intends taxation for tax's sake, which, of course, is bad statesmanship, and an unnecessary burden on the people.

The headmasters of private schools in Lagos have formed themselves into an association for the purpose of contesting any encroachment by legislation on the rights of private schools as the result of a rumour now current and gaining ground.

Mr. O. E. Samuel, Principal of Hope Institute has been appointed secretary to the association.

The first meeting of this association was held on Thursday last.

News from ABEOKUTA.

The Alake and Council having been satisfied as to the falsity of the charge made against a paramount Chief have acquitted him. It would appear the crime against this Chief is his education.

Famine is reported at Zaria. To combat it a contract for the supply of 20 tons of yams has been placed with an Egba Government Contractor.

A band of armed burglars were seen at 2 o'clock in the morning of the 27th May near Lafenwa bridge coming from the direction of Owa, Ibara Road. Two of the principal members of the fraternity were on horseback. The agent of Messrs Gotschalck and people in the vicinity rushed out the watchman attempted to fire their guns to frighten the burglar, but their weapons did not answer. After all efforts failed, one of the men on horse back shouted to the watchman. Is that all you can do, dont worry yourselves we do not come to work at Lafenwa we are only returning home from another place heavy laden. They stood up for some time and went down by the side of the Ika township. There were only two policeman available that night at Lafenwa Station and from the distance they kept they appear to adhere to the motto *a si si ibun ibe gba egbe* i.e. it is not meet to expose the stomach to knife wound.

Some influential members of this clique are in favour of the introduction of House and Land Tax into Egba land.

There have been very scanty rains and the farmers' complaints are heart-rending. Famine anticipated if no change takes place. The Alake is said to have approached his pastor Revd. Kuti asking for a United prayer of all the Churches for rain. This meeting took place on Monday the 25th inst but some of the churches outside of Ake were poorly represented or not at all.

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

SUBJECT— **Original Sin.**

Sunday June 7 Sin as a fact in human nature.
 " " 14 " an inherited disposition.
 " " 21 The Doctrine as taught in the Bible and its Development.
 " " 28 Sermon on Human Depravity its cause and cure.

Sankey's Hymns will be used.

Service commences at 7 p.m. each day.

E. T. Johnson.

The Nigerian Chronicle.

Inconsistencies and Incongruities of 'The Nigerian Pioneer.'

The Nigerian Pioneer in its very first issue January 8, 1914 said that its object is "to educate the public opinion of the country." It continued:—"In order to give publicity to all shades of opinion on matters of public importance and utility the columns of the 'Nigerian Pioneer' will as far as possible be available as a representative medium open to all for the expression of every class of public opinion." But in its issue of May 29, 1914 it says:—"Public opinion in Nigeria has yet to be formed." And in the same column of the same page of that very issue the "Pioneer" states:—"It would therefore seem that in those regions (other parts of Nigeria, not Lagos where the assimilation has been more) more especially would a critical spirit move the opinions held on the subject of the advantages accruing from British rule."

Although THE PIONEER alleges in this same issue that in Lagos "the state of things is strangely the reverse of a critical spirit," yet it says with the same breath "what criticisms we feel called on to make....." And still in another column it says:—"As regards the criticism of public matters (it should like to see) more self-control and less display of adjectives calculated to bring one into disrepute with the unthinking members of the community." Talking of itself in the issue of May 23 it says:—"Perhaps it is thought that this criticism (its own criticism) is somewhat too harsh and that the carefully worded clause would damage none but underhand dealings in credit."

The "Nigerian Pioneer" in its issue of May 29 believes and holds:—

I that "public opinion" is the number of copies a newspaper circulates. It says:

"The circulation of the three other local papers, perhaps exceeds, jointly, one thousand copies. In this also, the figure seems generous. In claiming, therefore, to represent 'public opinion,' they seem somewhat bold."

II that its own circulation is equal to those of the other three local papers put together. It says:—

"Our readers—a community possibly equal in number to that served by our three contemporaries together."

III that only what it calls "the educated public" i.e. the literate peoples of Nigeria, possesses "an opinion" since they only are "able to read." It says:—

"In Nigeria the proportion of illiterate people is, approximately, 149 in 150 and in making this approximation, a fair allowance is made for those persons who, although not quite illiterate, are capable of using their education to little use. In

Lagos alone, there are possibly ten thousand people able to read and write."

"Jointly, their circulation approximates to the one hundredth part of the educated public, which again represents the one hundred and fiftieth part of the population of Nigeria. Making, in all, their spheres of influence jointly equal to the fifteen thousand part of the 'public' whose opinion they claim to represent."

iv that all local papers other than itself are dishonest since they represent their "personal opinion" as "public opinion". It says:—

"Public opinion" in Nigeria has yet to be formed, and until the day when Education and means of communication have given the opportunity for such formation, it would appear more honest if, in the place of representing their opinions as those of "the people," they were put forward as personal opinions, backed only by their writer and his readers."

As against these points, the "Pioneer" in the same issue of May 29 says: "On the other hand we have to acknowledge from our readers taken as a whole some appreciation of our efforts just as much as kicks and copious use of very good language are bestowed by the unkind readers. It will be a happy day for journalism in Nigeria if may be for the West Coast of Africa, when sympathy and co-operation evince themselves between the readers and proprietors..... We sincerely trust that other papers are not receiving the same attention from evil minded or disappointed persons as we are "sorry to say is our lot."

In the following which appeared in its issue of March 31-1 1914 "The Pioneer" leads record:—

"Knowing the general *notive public opinion* on this question of tenure..... We cannot believe that public opinion in such a State, for instance, as *Bybu-land* would unconditionally refuse to consider where and how it might best increase the productivity and therefore prosperity of its people by giving that very land a financial value wherewith the owner could go to the bank with a reasonable prospect of being enabled to obtain funds for its development."

Not only did the "Pioneer" tacitly endorse the inaccurate statement of Sir Frederick Lugard in his amalgamation speech that a few unofficial members of Council represent the Public opinion of Nigeria but wrote in its issue of January 27 the following:—"Considerable trouble and expense have been undergone in reproducing in these columns, the Nigeria Protectorate Order in Council 1913 and the happy message delivered at the Court Hall, Lagos, Nigeria, on the occasion under consideration, by His Excellency the Governor General. It was thought that *the peoples of Nigeria and the general public* should know the constitution of the country, and every facility placed within their reach to learn it. By so doing, it was expected that having "*read, marked and digested them,*" they would be in a better position to appreciate the situation, and to give expression accordingly. *Great care has been taken to ascertain and collect individual conclusions.*"

In the issue of February 17 under "Rambling Notes and News" and in connection with the proposed Judicial changes, it says:—"We are voicing the opinions of men of very opposite views and sympathies (*to our own.*)"

In its very first number the "Nigerian Pioneer" said:—

"Men of all races and climes stand on an equal footing in the eye of the law and are entitled to enjoy equality of treatment in the administration of justice."

Continuing in its issue of the 27th January it has the following:—

"After close study of these, the only real dissatisfaction expressed, is the introduction of the System of Provincial Courts which obtained in Northern Nigeria, into the Southern Provinces. The inhabitants of the Southern Provinces cannot be expected to favour a system which denies right of appeal to the natives of the Country. The Native is satisfied with the administration of Judiciary unconnected with, and acting independen

Letters to the Editor

The Land Question again at Abeokuta.

REGISTRATION OF LANDS AT ABEOKUTA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NIGERIAN CHRONICLE"

Sir

We are getting on. A prodigious amount of bother was kept up over the visits of Mr. Fred Williams Mr. J. K. Coker from Agege and Balogun Onibuku Sowemimo from Ibadan. These men arrived here on the 12th inst on the invitation of the Government Secretary to meet some members of the Financial Advisory Board on the matter of Registration of Lands. The secret conclave is reported to have recommended to the authorities the passing of the Registration Lands Order into Law. Under this enactment it shall be compulsory that all lands be registered, and payment be made to the Government for its services in surveying and registering. A rich harvest has been foretold.

Balogun Sowemimo—the motor man set loose to drive through the politics of Egba land would appear responsible for this law. He it was in 1912 that bewailed the absence of a law to register lands. Several meetings of Heads of Department and a few unofficials took place on the invitation of the Government Secretary who heard the jeremiad from Balogun Sowemimo's lips. On advice, Registration of Lands Order was drafted, which rumour says was submitted for the approval of the Governor-General and His Excellency saw no reason for such an Order. Nothing was heard of this law till last week when the news was told of the arrival of certain well-to-do farmers from Agege and multi-millionaire Balogun Sowemimo one of the largest land owners at Ibadan and that they have increased our burden of Taxation by a Registration Lands Order. What is the necessity for such an Order? What purpose is served by such enactment in a Native State? Our Government owns no lands, gives no Crown Grants; and exercises no legal right or control over lands. Is the Registration Order a stepping stone to House and Land Taxation? What advice can a man give, who has practically divorced himself from his hearth and home, living in the atmosphere of civilization in which "make haste to get rich" is the creed? Who has imbued the ideas and practices of the home of his adoption foreign and inimical to a Native State. No one gainsays that the consultative Committee was not composed of good men profuse in their liberality to Kings, Chiefs and Officials, that they gave bullocks, spirits, and cash to visitors. But these acts of generosity do not qualify them to think for Egba Nation as if Abeokuta is the town of Gotham packed with imbeciles, for them to recommend without the common courtesy of appealing to the people by your leave a measure to be passed into law.

Now to the question at issue. As a matter of patent fact very few persons own properties in Egba land independent of their families or tribes. The Egbas like the Children of Israel live together according to their tribes. Dwellings in Egba land consist

of compounds each contain several families. Will not this Order break up compounds? Each family will demarcate and register its own plot, people who once lived together in common on the same land will draw the line and the Unity and co-operation that once existed will fly out of the window. Just think how wretched and miserable the people will be if the above Order becomes law.

It is desirable that Edun's Administration give a definite and final pronouncement of its intention or views of Native Land Tenure. How long will it keep on relating the same incompatible tarradiddle assuring the Nation in the same breath that the people own the lands yet it passed the Forestry Order in Council, that the Alake and Council have no right to interfere with what use a man makes of his land yet imposes a tax of £2 per annum for every shop opened for legitimate Trade. Egba deputation to England in the person of the Government Secretary stated to the Commissioner that Egba lands are not subject to State Contract, yet Edun's Administration legislated that nobody should sell or mortgage lands without first obtaining the consent of the Alake and Council. That the Alake has no right to give away people's land, yet he parcels out private lands to whom he likes. The public say that the object of the Registration Lands Order is to deal a death blow on the Native laws on Land Tenure. This fact cannot be denied. There are a lot of people in Abeokuta today who live on lands allotted to them subject to the Native law that Govern Land Tenure—their peaceful enjoyment or possession depends on their good behaviour and the strict observance of the law not to sell or mortgage them. The lands are called after the names of the original owners, and most of them died leaving successors who are inexperienced or in indigent circumstances, whilst squatters wealthy and powerful threaten to deprive the children of their heritage. Such men will take advantage of the Registration of Lands Order, assure the right of individual ownership and so deprive the owners of their right and the prerogative of overlords conferred on them by the Native law. Will not this Order grant absolute right of ownership to squatters? For by registering they call the lands after their names and at liberty to sell mortgage or do with it what seemeth them good. Will not the Registration Lands Order be a license or authority to practice Shepherd's Ibadan Lands Transactions acquiring and expropriating lands from Dan to Beersheba by foul means? In the case of Ibadan the British Government interfered to save Ibadan lands. Who will in the case of Abeokuta? If current rumour is true some of the promoters of this Registration Order have acquired and are still acquiring lands, with affection for the Native owners and customs beaming in one eye and calculation shining out of the other, waiting like Mr Micawber "in case anything turned up"—the Registration Lands Order. The suggestion is that the above order will give individual and absolute right over lands registered, it will raise the value of landed properties so that people desirous of mortgaging or selling lands will do so under very favourable conditions, and all such flatulent fatuities carried in the fertile brains of our latter day politicians are the fiction diligently hawked about to hoodwink the public.

The Order in Council of 1904-05 prohibiting the sale of land and the action of Edun's administration in fixing 30/- per month as the rental for private plots of

nearly everybody with, of course the necessary precaution and care. But that in this very act, only because it was where a nigger was concerned, there was enough for Mr. Shaw to have gone all that length and width, even to the extent of searching Secretarial Records of Service with a view merely to gratifying that sordid desire of playing fire with the character and honesty of law and peace-abiding educated natives, is a matter that beats the time of the ordinary philosopher.

However the tale was turned at Court, and much as I should not like to say of whom was the good example made, yet in justice to this communication I may mention, that surely it was not an educated native. The inference is of course obvious.

Mr. Stubbs went into the case very carefully and his verdict gave widespread satisfaction. I am sure, quite sure, that Mr. Shaw will always make sure, doubly sure in future, before instituting proceedings of so hopelessly, untenable and groundless a character.

However here is this consideration for Mr. Shaw. He is on his first tour and under probation. He must work to confirmation of appointment, increment, and probably promotion. To get these, he must put in zeal and energy, which, in this case unfortunately, was misdirected. That he is new to the work there can be but the slightest doubt as it is understood that up to quite recently, he was an employee in the local Establishment of Messrs. John Holt & Co.

Now readers halt for a while and pause! Free from the poisonous atmosphere of a Palm Kernel Store and the fearful ordeal of a fever-stricken stocktaking and all at once translated to a sphere where the all refreshing and glorious breeze from an elaborate Pankah abounds, enjoying without restrictions the resplendence of a well furnished Office and quarters equipped according to modern requirements, surrounded and guarded by the very position and a band of stalwart policemen donned demotily in awe stricken braided Horse-Guards, decorated with these respect-and-salutation-demanding epaulettes and buttons not very far from pseudo-regimentals of a Napoleonic Age, who on earth will not play tranks?

Bye bye Mr. Editor.

"Northern Nigeria (Rex v Nichols)"

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION AND ANSWER.

"MR. POINTER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been drawn to the case of Rex v Nichols in Northern Nigeria whether Mr J. F. J. Fitzpatrick the Assistant Resident Magistrate, arrested the prisoner and conducted the prosecution in his own Court, where he was sitting as a Judge; what the accused was fined with 24 inches in the market-place, and in addition, got six months hard labour; whether he was flogged in the market-place at 12 noon on the day of conviction then taken a three days journey to Rumasia and flogged again in the market-place, and afterwards taken an 8 day's journey to Keffi and flogged for the third time and afterwards put in prison to serve his sentence; and if so what action is he taking or does he intend to take?"

MR. HARCOURT: "I have no information, but will make enquiry."

A proposed Masonic Hospital.

My Dear Sir,

The Committee of the Masonic Nursing Home, which you will see from the enclosed circular is a powerful body under very powerful patronage, ask me to invite your kind attention to the circular which outlines an important scheme, which though primarily intended to the Masonic fraternity will have a considerable interest in the direction of encouraging hospitals for paying patients.

I may say that the actual charges will be limited to bare cost on which the fees will ultimately be based, they should therefore be below the figure indicated in circular. The Masonic fraternity is raising the money for this Home and thereafter it will be a self-supporting Institution.

The reason the Committee ask you to kindly publish some details of the scheme is because one object is to provide a Home where Freemasons can find hospital accommodation at a low price should they unfortunately be taken ill while on a visit to the Home country. It should thus appeal strongly to British residents abroad or in our Dependencies

Yours faithfully,

C. H. THORPE.

Joint Honorary Secretary.

The Editor,

"The Nigerian Chronicle."

(EXTRACT OF DETAILS OF SCHEME.)

"The purpose of the Masonic Nursing Home or Paying Hospital is to provide on an **economical and Contributory basis** an Institution for Freemasons, and, if circumstances permit, for their wives and children. All Freemasons being subscribing members of Lodges owing allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England, whether at home or abroad, are to be eligible for admission, and the inclusion of Brethren *by and the Secs* is one of the features of the scheme."

Two guiding principles have been kept in mind in formulating the proposal, viz.:

1. That the underlying object of the scheme should not be to dispense charity, but to assist in the hour of their adversity those who endeavour to assist themselves.
2. That there must be no possibility of interference with the funds which the Craft subscribes annually for the three great Masonic Charities and that for this reason, an amply sufficient fund must be raised in the first place, and once for all to provide for the building and its equipment, and the requisite reserve fund."

"It is proposed to erect a building situated in a convenient position in London, and equipped on the most modern and up-to-date lines to accommodate about 32 patients, with the staff necessary for the purpose."

"The particulars on which the figure for the cost of a suitable building are based, are extracted from a Report by Bro. RICHARD KERSHAW, Secretary of the Central London Tarent and Ear Hospital.

Building	£17,000	
Land	5,000	
Furniture and Fittings	3,000	£25,000
Reserve Fund as recommended by the Committee after consultation with the Medical Advisory Committee		10,000
Total amount required		£35,000

News from and around Warri Province.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

Warri has been the scene of several grey-haired professionals, litigants, odd ladies and strange gentlemen during the last few days owing to the transfer from Onitsha of the Sensational Niger Company Case. Hawkers and Shopkeepers are piling high premium on their wares, rents have run high, and house-owners and landlords are praying that the case may continue for long. The American says—"More day more dollar".

Asger is reported to be in a state of political and social unrest owing to the injuries done by flogging to the person of King Agboba by Mr P. C. Hazard the District Commissioner. I have been promised and am awaiting full and detailed information from folks on the spot. Whatever may be the cause, it must not be forgotten that the Political Alter at Asger has not yet been wholly cleansed of the blood stains of the Crowe-Read tragedy just 8 years ago. Mr. Peters the District Clerk, must be especially cautious or else he eventually will have to bear the onus of a rather big political blunder. Verbum sap!

Forcados has been in sorrow over the recent Post Office Burglary (?) Case. Preliminary investigations are going on, and the "B.A.G." is being gradually but very widely opened. People now begin to see that there used to be some truths in, and good reasons for some news from Warri and around in the papers. As the case is *sub judice*, I reserve comments for a later date.

One thing and Another

BY REGIUS.

IBADAN.

It is becoming the fashion nowadays to see "Boys" or "favoured" clerks riding inside their (white) masters' Motor Side-Cars in this Town. To the uninformed the spectacle suggests the beginning of the end of segregation. It happens, however, that the Side-Car must somehow or other be weighted down unless the Cyclist himself is prepared to ride in the Car and operate the machine therefrom—a feat which, I am told, only expert riders could perform though not without some risk. It is then that Cornelius Jones or Houseboy Sam is found useful as Car-weight. The "Dirty Nigger" then is out of question!

Reference to Motor Car reminds one of the "Break neck" speed indulged in here by some white motorists with the tacit approval of the police. There is no wisdom in waiting till a horrible accident demonstrates the danger attending this habit. Iddo Gate Street, our "Martina", is the scene usually of this reckless riding.

We are now in the wet season proper and I trust the motor transport authorities will not overlook my humble suggestion of last week concerning seats and seating.

Some Knotty Questions requiring Answers.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NIGERIAN CHRONICLE"

Lagos

Sir,

Allow me to ask through the medium of your Journal the following questions for my edification and perhaps for others at home and abroad.

Is it a fact that the Huroouris, the Merzis, and the host of town in Squires Alley who are now pleading for Provincial Courts etc. have vested interests in the Niger Company Limited and that in pressing this law they are simply seeking their personal interests and those of the company they represent?

Is it a fact someone owns 70,000 shares and another 40,000? Is it a fact that someone has recently joined? Is it a fact that Fred. Ball is the man they get always to do the dirty work and for which past services he is highly placed?

Can it be denied that capitalists are ruling the roost?

Yours truly,

AEROPLANE.

Portsmouth, England.

May 14, 1914.

Continued from page 2

—dently of the Executive. He prefers a bench manned by men, who, imbued with the traditions usually associated with it, are jealous of and ever mindful of preserving and adorning it."

"Giving protection to all alike in Nigeria, His Excellency is assured of the loyalty and hearty co-operation of all."

In its issue of March 31st it says:—

"The continued attack on the Provincial Courts Ordinance makes us again enter the field in the defence of the principles which that Ordinance now embodies. Those principles, we consider, represent a satisfactory basis of judicial administration in this Colony at the present time."

In its issue of May 29th we have the following:—

"In Lagos itself, the most progressive town in West Africa, do we find the centre of that impatient and carping spirit that attacks the government at all times—not because it is bad government, but because it is British government. That the process of evolution must slowly work its way to a proper organisation of the whole system of West African government is a truth that the leaders of disloyalty forget—or ignore."

We may here inform the "Nigerian Pioneer" that what is called "Public opinion" is not a stereotyped something that alters not; but it is an abstract entity which grows from small beginnings adding to itself as it goes on. It is always the wishes and wants of a minority on any matter which by means of conversation, communication, letter, petition and such like channels become the opinion—the wishes and wants—of the majority. Such was the growth of opinion during the Liquor Traffic agitation and such is the way public opinion is formed in any Civilized Country.

In England it is said:—'The system of government is such at the present day that the humblest citizen may have all his reasonable complaints and grievances immediately made known..... Imitations of any wrong committed can be sent by letter or electric telegraph with marvellous rapidity and certainty; and if any one of all the officials and functionaries of government neglect their duty the public press is so invitingly open that through it the whole civilized world be told of the duty neglected and the wrong suffered.

Marked "No Account"

MOTOR TRIPS AND LUNCHES TO LADIES WHICH WERE NOT PAID FOR.

Formerly an assistant Commissioner in the Nigerian police, a well-dressed man, who gave his name as Captain Charles Green, and his address as Piccadilly Club, was brought up at Marlborough-street on several charges of fraud. It was stated that prisoner called upon the manager of the West End Automobile Company, and hired a motor-car to go to Brighton. He handed the manager a cheque for five guineas, drawn upon the Docks, Cardiff, branch of the National Provincial Bank. When that cheque was presented, it was returned marked "No account," although it was stated that at one time prisoner did have an account at that bank, but that it had been closed. Another case was with reference to a lunch prisoner was said to have given to some ladies in the grill room of the Carlton Hotel. At the conclusion of the repast, according to the head waiter of the grill room, he handed that official a cheque to pay the cost of the lunch, the amount being £6 2s. This cheque also was returned marked "Refer to drawer."—Then Mr. Alfred John Paine, proprietor of the Windsor Castle Hotel, Victoria Station, entered the witness-box, and deposed that he was acquainted with prisoner, who was a customer at the hotel. Prisoner prevailed upon him to lend him £100, giving witness a post-dated cheque for that amount. When the cheque was presented at the bank upon which it was drawn it was discovered that there was no money to meet it. When spoken to about the matter, prisoner expressed regret. He added that a man in Paris owed him between £400 and £500, and succeeded in obtaining a further loan of £25, for the ostensible purpose of going to Paris to get the money. None of that money, added Mr. Paine, had been returned to him.—

Prisoner asked the magistrate whether he might be allowed to pay back the money owing.—The Magistrate pointed out that he had a duty to perform to the public, and committed prisoner for trial to London Sessions, allowing him bail, himself in £250, and one surety of £500.

The News of the World, May 3, 1914.

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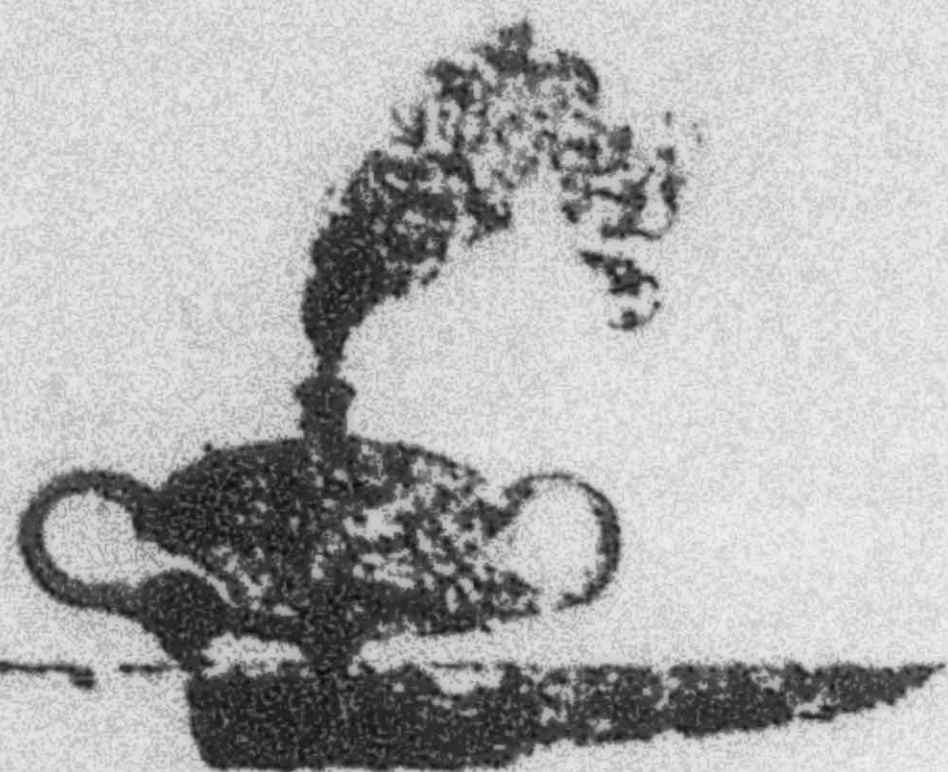
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NEWS OF THE WEEK

HOME

By a Special notification made on the 8th instant His Honour the Lieutenant Governor has withdrawn the Order declaring the Port of Dakar, French West Africa, an infected place under the Quarantine Ordinance.

A Bill entitled an Ordinance to provide for compulsory Pilotage in the Harbour of Lagos and for the appointment and licensing of Pilots about to be presented to the Legislative Council has been published for general information.

The British Cotton Growing Association have guaranteed, for a further period of twelve months ending 31st May 1915, the present price of 1/4d. per lb for all seed cotton delivered at the Association's gineries or Merchants' buying depots along the Railway.

The public will like to know:—

1. Whether Dr. Gray, a European practitioner in private practice, is the Medical attendant on the Fire Brigade Corps?

2. Whether he is paying for the Fire Brigade Hall which he uses as his Garage?

3. Whether he pays for the services of the Brigade men employed in polishing the brass fittings of his Motor Car?

News from ABEOKUTA.

The tea cup storm which took place at the meeting of the Financial Advisory Board of 29/5/14 resulted in a request to the Medical Officer to resign his much coveted appointment. Some people say because the doctor would not submit to the operation of being steam-rolled by the Board, whilst other proverbially say *Shokun si si ope para to jo to si si* and he is one who is on the cards for roasting should not sit on the person and sit near the fire.

Meeting of the Financial Advisory Board took place on the 1st and 2nd inst. to consider the why and wherefore there is a decrease in the Revenue of the Government.

Public opinion is that the Financial Advisory Board ruined the Trade of Egba land under the subterfuge of protecting Agriculture. The public wait with interest for a faithful report from the Government as to the benefits that have accrued to farming in Egba land by the passing of the "Shona Order in Council." The interference with the festivals of the people because they are "unhygienic" is another cause for bad Trade. The prosperity in all native festivals is to spend and be

spent. A stoppage of any of the Customs must be attended with serious consequences. Another important fact is the Egbas have got dissatisfied that they have no voice in the conduct of their Government and therefore show very little or no interest in increasing the revenue by drinking their lives out. In the Board of enquiry weeping over the fall of the Government Revenue appears the wisdom of the crocodiles that shed tears when they would devour. *A pe gbon a ti pe po* i.e. In an assembly is wisdom not folly.

The Egba Government Offices which were closed on Wednesday the 3rd inst and the day observed as a public holiday in honour of the Birthday of King George V. was a diplomatic strike. The Alake and Council, Members of the Financial Advisory Board, Heads of Department Agents of European firm etc met at 8.30 a.m. at The British Residency on the invitation of the Commissioner and wife to celebrate the day. Every one left the hall satisfied with the refreshments provided and thanked Mrs. Young for her unsparring efforts in making them happy. That a very enjoyable time was spent is evident, and the Alake and Council were the last to leave the hall. It is good for us to be here with the four Kings under four tabernacles would be an appropriate colloquy for them to make on this occasion. Ehem!

The death of Hannah Ajerunke, the mother of Mr. J. E. Majekodunmi, one of the most prominent Native Merchants, took place on Saturday afternoon the 5th inst. Her remains were conveyed to Ikereke Church and afterwards interred in Ifiji Cemetery.

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Sunday June 7	Sin as a fact in human nature.
" " 14	an inherited disposition.
" " 21	The Doctrine as taught in the Bible and its Development.
" " 28	Sermon on Human Depravity its cause and cure.

Sankey's Hymns will be used.

Service commences at 7 p.m. each day.

E. F. Johnson.

The Nigerian Chronicle.

"Affairs of Nigeria" Examined and Criticized.

The article "Affairs of Nigeria" which we culled into the present issue from *The African Mail* will give the careful reader sufficient information of the mental unrest on the part of those who are responsible for the new policy that is sought to be introduced into the Southern Provinces of the new Nigeria.

From internal evidence it is easy to conclude whose mental operations the production expresses. It is clear on the face of the article that this "Northern Nigeria Correspondent" of the *African Mail* is not a native of Northern Nigeria; nor is he a native of the South who is resident in Northern Nigeria. This is proved beyond all doubt by the following statements of the writer. "To a fairly old 'Nigerian' like myself....." "I believe the sympathies of all enlightened natives are with you because they realize....." Had he been a native he would not have excluded himself.

Now in the article the production of a "Native Messenger" - an incongruous and euphemistic term introduced into the legal nomenclature of an incongruous legislation which is rancid with colour bias and Negrophobia. "I know a good deal of Africa," says he, but he has only "been" to those places and was not born in any of them.

The only logical conclusion is that it was written by a "non-native" - one of those whom the obnoxious Provincial Courts Ordinance does not affect. That the "non-native" is an Englishman, and one who is interested to see the "Moral" policy inaugurated in the Southern Provinces of Nigeria the following quotation from his statements would show:

"The greatest boon which could happen to the Western Provinces would be an intelligent endeavour to follow out a policy of the kind you (the *African Mail*) have yourself often advocated..... no part I have ever been to offer such opportunities for statesmanship as this (the Western Province) does.

He is a Government Official with common interest with the *African Mail*. Says he "Four (the *African Mail*'s) view is believed to be identical with the views of the Administration. The mistake we always make and always have made out here is to under rate the importance of what I would call a political Intelligence Department. We allow free rein to all sorts of falsehoods..... all sorts of loose terms..... used in the newspapers. A ball is set rolling, and we watch it rolling and gathering momentum and make little or no effort to alter its direction."

Obviously he is a member of a "Political Intelligence Department," and an individual perhaps to whom all political reports go. This is conclusive from the air of authority assumed in the whole article and particularly in the following statements:

"I learn from Kano that a number of Ashimwas - Tuaregs from the Air or Ashem oases have lately arrived from French territory with enormous herds of camels, to settle in the Bornu, Kano, and Sokoto provinces. This is an extremely interesting fact. The work of national education is being vigorously pursued. Large schools are being built now, or have already been completed, at Zaria, Bida, Ibadan, Sokoto, Katsina, Maitinguari, and Kano, etc. All these schools have been built under the immediate supervision of the Emirs, who take a keen and personal interest in the work. The pagan schools on the Benue will, it is hoped, be shortly started. Work at Port Harcourt progresses."

"The mistake we always make, and always have made out here, is to under rate the importance of what I would call a political Intelligence Department."

It can also be inferred that the "Northern Nigeria Correspondent" of the *African Mail* was not in Northern Nigeria at the time he wrote; for he would be contradicting himself in his remark about Northern Nigeria. It would be admitted that if "the Northern Provinces are working with extraordinary smoothness," it is contradictory to talk of "the mistake" made here in under rating the importance of a Political Intelligence Department. So that the word "here" in that sentence may either refer to the Southern Province, or to England where the "*African Mail*" is published.

But the fact that an incident which happened about the 12th of May 1914 at Abeokuta and which was only published in our last issue found a place in the letter of the *Mail*'s correspondent published on the 15th May leads us to the conclusion that the writer must have been in England at the time of writing and that as a member of the "Political Intelligence Department" news reached him from Abeokuta as it did from Kano, Zaria, Bida, Ibadan, Sokoto &c. From premises hitherto established the cloven feet of the writer and his assistant are fairly out.

To come to the allegations in the article that are worth noticing. This Correspondent argues in the following manner:

Certain newspapers in Lagos are attacking the Governor-General very bitterly.

Certain newspapers in Lagos are in a chronic state for attacking all occupants of Government House

Sir John Glover was attacked more bitterly yet a Memorial Hall was erected to his memory.

Sir Walter Egerton was abused with almost frantic vituperation yet a presentation is being made to him

Therefore opinions expressed in these newspapers are opinions not representing Lagos opinion.

Assuming for the purpose of discussion that the above argument is valid, the fact that a Memorial Hall was erected to the memory of Sir John Glover and a presentation made to Sir Walter may be taken as an indication of the liberal and noble-mindedness of the people to

*Write injuries (done to them) on sands
But good deeds on marble.*

The fallacy of this Correspondent's reasoning is apparent when one comes to think that what he says in effect is that certain newspapers in Lagos do not represent Lagos opinion when they criticize bitterly the occupant

Affairs of Nigeria.

(From a Northern Nigerian Correspondent.)

(Special to the "African Mail.")

The Protectorate is steadily going ahead. I learn from Kano that a number of Ashuswas—Tuaregs from the Air or Asben oases—have lately arrived from French territory with enormous herds of camels, to settle in the Bornu, Kano, and Sokoto provinces. This is an extremely interesting fact. The work of national education is being vigorously pursued. Large schools are being built now, or have already been completed, at Zaria, Bida, Ilorin, Sokoto, Katsina, Maiduguri, and Kano city. All these schools have been built under the immediate supervision of the Emirs, who take a keen and personal interest in the work. The pagan schools on the Benue will, it is hoped, be shortly started.

Work at Port Harcourt progresses. Certain newspapers in Lagos are attacking the Governor-General very bitterly. But this is their chronic state, whoever may be the occupant of Government House. No one was attacked more bitterly in his day than Sir John Glover—yet a memorial hall was erected to his memory. Sir Walter Egerton was abused with almost frantic vituperation—yet a presentation is being made to him. All this shews that the statements of these newspapers do not really represent even Lagos opinion. They are in point of fact, first and foremost, a libel upon educated native opinion. Just now, Captain Ross, the Resident at Ibadan, is coming in for his share, apparently because his efforts have been consistently directed to supporting the Alafin of Oyo, interpreting his duties in the sense of upholding the prestige of native rule in the interior. However, the newly created *Pioneer* has struck a new note, and a note which gives a fairer indication of what educated native feeling really is. Naturally it is coming in for its share of abuse. To a fairly old "Nigerian," like myself, it is a great satisfaction to see that the real feeling of the bulk of educated natives has at last found oracular expression.

The attacks upon yourself continue spasmodically. They have been inspired by two motives principally. By the belief that you have advocated the Crown taking over the land of the country, *i.e.*, assuming ownership. Your correspondence with the Colonial Secretary, which was published in the local newspapers, or some of them, satisfied all but your bitterest critics on this point. You must not expect any change of attitude from the latter, because their object is a different one, and it is quite well understood here. The people who inspire them are either people who have a quite definite end in view, or who are inspired (and this is more often the case) by men who have. And this end is to facilitate the freehold acquisition of land in the interior by individuals of their class. Outside Abeokuta, where the Government's hands are hampered by the Treaty, the policy of the Administration has been to discourage and, in some cases, to prevent such acquisitions. But the law is rather fluid at present. Your view is believed to be identical with the views of the Administration in this matter, and it is felt that any influence you may be able to exert will be exerted in the direction of hardening the law against such acquisition in the future. I believe the sympathies of all enlightened natives are with you, because they realise

dimly, perhaps, but still to some extent, that if once buying and selling of land begins, it can only end in impoverishing the mass of the people and undermining genuine native rule in the interior. The seat of the trouble is really Abeokuta. The Abeokuta people are well-to-do and busy, and they do not, in the mass, understand what would be the ultimate consequence of the practice which Edun (the Secretary), and a few other rich Abeokutans, have started, if it were extensively followed. The mistake we always make, and always have made out here, is to underrate the importance of what I would call a political Intelligence Department. We allow free rein to all sorts of false rumours, and it seems to be one's business to remove misapprehensions which occur in consequence of them. All sorts of loose terms are used in the newspapers. A ball is set rolling, and we watch it rolling and gathering momentum, and make little or no effort to alter its direction.

The greatest boon which could happen to the Western Province would be an intelligent endeavour to follow out a policy of the kind you have yourself often advocated—what, I think, you have called a "reconstruction" of the old Yoruba States on a national basis. I believe the idea is gaining ground, and, if it comes off, will be a godsend. It needs tact, and much quiet palavering in the preliminary stages. I know a good deal of Africa, but no part I have ever been to offer such opportunities for statesmanship as this does. The Northern Provinces are working with extraordinary smoothness. The key to the position there, of course, is the efficiency of the native Governments. If their prestige is kept up, the next 25 years will produce a race of native African rulers, the like of whom you would look for in vain in any other part of Africa. And I see no cause why two at least of the Southern Provinces should not be guided in similar channels, and produce similar results in a somewhat longer interval.

From the African Mail

News from and around Warri Province.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

Prince George Benjamin Appiah of Anamaboe, Gold Coast passed away peacefully at his residence at midnight on the 6th inst to the sorrow of all his friends and relatives. Until quite recently, he was Storekeeper in the Provincial Commissioner's Office from whence he was transferred to the P.W.D. Engineer's Office. He was a man of a very retiring disposition, respectful and respectable, and always carried about him a truly princely gait. His funeral on Thursday afternoon 7th was well attended. As far as local circumstances permitted, the rites and ceremonies appertaining to his royal office were observed by the members of the Fanti community in Warri a most united and loving people. He died in his 35th year.

From Accra, came the news of the death of Mr. Ussher Aschie Wellington, Provincial Commissioner's Clerk. The deceased on account of indifferent health was a few weeks ago invalided to Accra for expert medical treatment, and bad as his state of health was at the time of his departure, it was never anticipated that he would never return in the body to his old pals and friends again. He was an exception amongst his confraternity. Free from the fetters of those unstable

causal—it was found by actual practice that those objections were without foundation.

It is the general tendency, even among engineers, to take for granted that any wind must necessarily diminish the efficiency of aerial propellers. This conclusion is quite incorrect. It has been found by actual experimenting that, in windy weather, in 75% of the directions from which it can blow the wind materially increases the thrust of the aerial propeller. Therefore, in seventy-five cases out of a hundred, an aerially-propelled watercraft can utilize the natural wind power. Also, since it has been found that at 35 points from the wind, the thrust of an aerial propeller is increased above what it is in calm weather, it will, with very little practice, be an easy matter to navigate, so as to derive continuously from the wind an increase of propeller thrust, thus reducing fuel consumption.

"AFFAIRS OF NIGERIA" EXAMINED AND CRITICIZED.

Continued from page 2

of Government House but that they represent Lagos opinion when they do not criticise him notwithstanding that the critical and the laudatory articles appear in the same newspaper. If this amounts to a crime there is no nation in Europe that is free from the practice. It is a known fact that although the Unionists are criticising most bitterly today Mr. Asquith and his associate Mr. Lloyd George yet they will be the very same people to join in any scheme to Perpetuate their memories. We lauded Mr. Morla yesterday to the skies for his defence of the Congo natives and criticise him most bitterly today for the policy he preaches as detrimental to the advancement, and inimical to the true interest, of the natives. It is madness to see only a man's good qualities and blind one's eyes to his bad qualities. When we criticise, we aim not at the individual but his policy. We are criticising most bitterly the policy of Sir Frederick Lugard and his class legislation and not the man himself. We criticise his policy since we are able to read between the lines that falsehood does put on a goodly outside.

The Northern Nigeria Correspondent of the African Mail forgets that bitter criticism is an effect to which there must be a cause; and that the justness or unjustness of the criticism depends on the nature of the cause, and on that alone do we stand condemned. And we ask our kind and gentle readers to note the case we have made against our Administration in the many previous issues of our paper ere any sentence is pronounced against us.

It is here necessary however to point out that the presentation to Sir Walter Egerton was the manoeuvring of his friends known only to that newly created "Pioneer" and was not a native movement.

Again Mr. Correspondent argues:—

Capt Ross, Resident at Ibadan, is being "bitterly criticised" apparently.—

(a) *because his efforts have been consistently directed to supporting the Alafin of Oyo.*

(b) *because his efforts have been in interpreting his duties in the sense of upholding the prestige of native rule in the Interior.*

That Mr Correspondent, a member of the "Political Intelligence Department," a chief Colleague, probably, of Capt Ross, should give a different interpretation other than the above to the latter's official actions would be one of the greatest surprises of the century. Who is Capt. Ross without this member of the "Political Intelligent Department" who is "the true Ross?" Had Mr. Ross' Political conscience been square with him would he have taken upon himself, so goes the report, to ransack the letters at the Post Office at Ibadan last week with the futile hope of coming across letters addressed either to him or the "Times of Nigeria"? Had his official acts been unquestionable would he have promised to remunerate X as talked about if he could find and bring to him any such letters? What necessity there is for him to place watch and detectives near and about the Post Office, the Railway Station, and such like places to give him names of people who go in and out of those places as reported? It has been said:—

"Suspicion hunts the guilty mind,

The thief doth fear lach bush an Officer"
Mr Ross is no thief and he need not be suspicious.

"Thrice is he armed whose cause is just."

There is no smoke without a fire and so long as Capt Ross keeps "interpreting" the policy of the Administration which is identical with the views of the African Mail so long must he expect that he will be bitterly criticised and he need not try to avoid the natural consequence of his acts.

The Northern Nigerian Correspondent continues with his argument:—

However the newly created Pioneer is a news-paper that has struck a new note.

Something that gives a fairer indication of what educated native feeling really is, is this note.

The newly created Pioneer is a news-paper coming in naturally for its share of abuse.

That the real feeling of the bulk of educated natives has at last found oracular expression is something that gives great satisfaction to a fairly old Nigerian like myself.

From the above premises it is clear that this Correspondent believes that "the newly created Pioneer" gives a fair indication of what educated native feeling really is because it is coming in naturally for a share of abuse, just as Capt. Ross is coming in for his own. Is it true that the most "abused" newspaper is the newspaper that expresses the true feeling of a community on any subject? Are criticisms and exposures of wrong actions and reasonings abuse? We leave our readers to answer. On the contrary any newspaper or Government that is so battered in every direction shows that it has n't public favour at its back. There is a sense in which the "Pioneer" may give a fair indication of educated native feeling and that is by the criticisms and reasonings which may be marshalled and levelled against it—criticisms and reasonings which the African Mail's Correspondent termed "abuses"

But the question has been raised does the "Nigerian Pioneer" express native opinion whether educated or uneducated? We say No. It has been reported

to us that the "Pioneer" was "created" for the present Amalgamation in order to preach the doctrine of the Administration and to bluff the British World that it represents native opinion. A European friend once told us early in the year that our paper, the Nigerian Chronicle, is gone as one of the missions of the "newly created Pioneer" is to drive us out of the field. We assured him that it is a question of the survival of the fittest. That it is only in this year 1914, with the advent of the Pioneer "that the real feeling of the bulk of educated natives at last found oracular expression" (although within the past 5 years educated native opinion has overthrown a seditious offences Bill, a water rate, a Liquor Traffic and a Colonial Church question, and has exposed the inner meaning of a Lands question and a proposed Judicial Reform) points unmistakably to the fact that the force behind the creation of the Pioneer is the same force that is now expressing itself through the pages of the African Mail.

Let us come down to concrete facts. The Proprietor of the Nigerian Pioneer, Mr. Ajasa, is a native. As Proprietor, he is primarily responsible for the financial side of the business; although he may give the paper his moral support which he does in this instance. And it is the popular opinion that he is more at home in the company of Europeans than in that of his own countrymen. Mr. Bright Davies a native who was given out as the Manager, we understand, has severed his connection after the first two publications, being dissatisfied with its policy as recent criticisms in "The Times of Nigeria" show. Mr. Irving, a European, is the Editor. Of him it is reported that he has given it out that he has no longer any connection with the paper since he comes to Africa to work for money, and it would be wrong policy in him to work against the interest of his African clients. This however has not been stated in the paper. The talk is that the man who wields the Editorial baton is a Mr. Clarke, who, although he is here in the interest of some commercial transactions, is advocating a policy very likely to capsize the interest he is expected to protect. Fine fellow indeed? We may say *en passant* that men, who are piloting oppression against the natives will naturally suffer the consequences themselves after the natives have been got under. People in their selfishness somehow forget that men who drag others into the mud must remain in the mud themselves to keep their victims there.

The "Pioneer" can express no other sentiment than European, since the Editor who directs and controls its policy is a European. Segregation debars him from coming into close contact with the natives, and he does not understand the native language nor can he get at the back of the native mind. Commercially and politically he would enhance the interest of his colour. The "educated native" is to him a being abhorred. And it does not need any close reasoning to show that he must be biased against the native in favour of his own class. The attempt to show off the Pioneer as a native paper at its initial stage accounts for the several inconsistencies and incongruities which we have pointed out in our last issue.

Obituary.

OBITUARY— Mr. Aaron B. Macanlay on Monday the 8th instant.

Dr. E. J. H. Garstin Medical Officer on the 4th instant.

In page 2 column 2 line 12 from the bottom for "argument is valid" please read "premises are valid"

A meeting of the Local Auxiliary of the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society was convened yesterday and adjourned till tomorrow

FORWARD.

"Onward! while a wrong remains
To be conquered by the right -
While oppression lifts a finger
To affront us by his might;
While an error clouds the reason,
Or a sorrow gnaws the heart,
Or a slave awaits his freedom,
Action is the wise man's part."

"His lamps are we, to shine where He shall say,
And lamps are not for sunny rooms;
Not for the light of day;
But for the dark places of the earth,
Where shame, and wrong, and crime have birth;
Or for the twilight murky gray,
Where wandering feet have gone astray;
Or when the light of faith grows dim,
And souls are groping after Him;
And as sometimes a flame we find,
Clear shining through the night -
So bright we do not see the lamp,
But only see the light, so we may shine
His Light the flame, that men may glorify
His Name."

"Follow the marks that others have set, beside
The narrow, cloud-swept track, to be thy guide,
Follow, and honour what the past has gained,
And forward still, that more may be attained,
Something to learn, and something to forget:
Hold fast the good, and seek the better yet:
Press on, and prove the pilgrim - hope of youth:
The creeds are milestones on the road to Truth."

HENRY VAN DYKE.

We have been asked to state whether flogging is a form of punishment inflicted in Native Courts in

(a) The Northern Province of Nigeria.

(b) The Southern Province of Nigeria.

(c) The Colony of Nigeria prior to British occupation and for what offence or offences was it inflicted.

We shall be much grateful to any of our readers who will help to throw light on this subject.

A lecture "Monogamy and the Church" by Mr. Adeoye Deniga will be delivered at the Glover Memorial Hall next Tuesday the 16th instant at 7 p.m. Chairman J. K. Coker Esq. Donations will be received at the close of the lecture in aid of the Herald-Alore.

The committee appointed to draft out a petition to be presented to the Secretary of State ament the Assessment of Houses and the Water Rate having completed its work, a general meeting of the People was convened at Ilupesi, Bau Owa, when the same was read, approved of, and laid on the table for signature. It is already largely signed.

We are pleased to welcome back home after some 14 years absence Mr. J. T. Clegg of Kpong, Volta River, who is now on a visit to his friends.

We continue to have downpours of rain during the week. The volume is such that if it were possible for it to be collected somewhere would last the inhabitants almost a whole year.

Our criticism of "Major Guggisberg's Hot work in Nigeria" is again crowded out.

The African Mail has the following:—

WE understand that the site of the new capital of Nigeria at the Kaduna is now completely laid out. The new capital will also be the headquarters of the Administration of the Northern Provinces. There remains the question of headquarters for the Southern Provinces. It has been decided not to make these headquarters at Lagos, which will remain the capital of the colony purely and simply. A spot, not yet positively decided upon, in the Western Province, is destined to be the site of the future Southern capital.

One thing and Another

BY REGIUS.

Time was when Empire days, Agricultural Shows, King's Birth and such like days are celebrated in this town in a way hardly to be outdone elsewhere in the Protectorate. Somehow or other one feels that those days are gone never to return. The Agricultural Show which took place here last February and the glorified report of which was scattered far and near, thanks to the Nigerian Press, was all but what it was represented to be. It was an open secret that the attendance such as it was—was forced; the country being then in sorrow over the arrest of the late Bale's relative and right-handman who was eventually exiled; no one attended practically the first day; the posters announcing the Show were not placarded till the very first morning of the concern. Last any one should brand me with talking what was not, I challenge those concerned in the affair to deny that these were so.

Little wonder then that this year's Empire Day celebrations came off with so much ill-success. True it was that we were roused from our sleep by the sweet though in order strains of the Bale's trumpets and drums, the flags saluted and troops paraded. But the day is essentially schoolchildren's and they used to enjoy their sports, sweet biscuits and other dainties provided for them in honour of the day.

This year, to the surprise of all, native roasted bean-breads with agidi was introduced to replace the sweets of old. Worse still: after going through two items only on the sports programme which was an elaborate one the rest were postponed till the following day to be continued by competitors only. The introduction of the "akun ere pelu eko" was presumably to teach the children to live upon their own food. The whole affair in fact was a big fun, characteristically Northern.

I wonder like "Alice of Wonderland" fame whether the Mills and the Hands in England together with Messrs Elder Dempster would pray for this wholesale return.

What exodus would there be? *Asoni nas ra re* (The wicked is only disturbing his own soul)

The strange Synodical Resolution of His Lordship of Western Equatorial Africa was the subject of much discussion in this town since the return of the delegates. Personally, the view that I take of the matter—serious as it is—is that there is hardly anything left that that Bishop would not do who has identified himself with the proposal to tax us in order to make the success of his anti-drink campaign certain. Nigerians know their enemies as well as friends and could easily forgive "sins committed while conscience slept." His Lordship ought to know that the end to be achieved does not justify the means.

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premises of A. J. Thomas & Son a
sawing machine where he is pre-
pared to take up the sawing of
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THE NIGERIAN CHRONICLE

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

Edited by CHRS. JOHNSON

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NEWS OF THE WEEK

HOME

Heavy rains continued during the week.

The members of the Bethel Section of the African Church are holding just now a hair-splitting contention over some matters regarding the building of their new church. To us they seem to leave the essential for the non-essential. They leave unattended to what would have secured to their church solidarity. The more so, the pity of it.

PUBLICATION RECEIVED: - "Hausa Grammar with Exercises &c." by CHARLES H. ROBINSON D.D. new Edition. Price 5/- net. KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH TRUBNER & Co. Ltd. London. It is the Book for Students who would get into this interesting language in a very short time and who may be without direction.

Other local news crowded out.

News from ABEOKUTA

The general talk is that the mercantile firms have decided not to accept the title deeds of lands in Abeokuta as security against credit even if presented in a silver siver. It would appear the Merchants have no faith in them.

There were a goodly showers of rain last week. The contention was so sharp between them that the Christians Mahamedans and Pagans could not agree as to whose prayer was answered. For each of them in their own way prayed for rain. But the latest news received up to the 15th, is that some of the farms are awfully dry. That there is dearth of water for drinking or cooking purposes and the farmers have to dig all about for water in swamps and wait for it to ooze out which they collect by dyps and dribblers. Could the Water-works be responsible for this?

The Native Court of appeal began its sittings on the 8th inst. Commissioner Young Egba Government Secretary and D. O. Lijadu photographer and Goldsmith were the Judges. The Commissioner and Mr Lijadu draw no salary from the Government under any shape or form.

It is not often that the public have the pleasure of praising the Bench but they cannot refrain from praising the all-two-unique impartiality of the President Judge of the Native Court of Appeal for not allowing any influence to bear on the Judgment he gave in the case of Yusufu Ayoola appellant versus Oganima and others with which decision the other Judges had to concur.

The case of the burglars (appellants) in connection with breaking into Ikeraku parsonage stealing and carrying away the goods and chattels of a parson and wounding came up for hearing. One of the appellants stated that his ground of appeal was that he visited the parsonage to do the samaritan to the wounded son of Rev Lahanmi at the invitation of one Belo. The Court referred the case to Mr. George the Judge of the Native Court for fresh investigation. Belo and the other accomplices have since been arrested.

Certain person or persons creatures or acquaintances of a prominent Official is or are taking advantage of the present unpopularity of the late President Judge of the Native Court to incite people to appeal against the Judgments of the late Judges the Base of Ake and Bagbile of Kesi two educated Chiefs. The burglars appeal is one of the cases.

A farmer from Agege is reported to have attended the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of the 5th inst. and succeeded to ram into the heads of the members the scheme of Poll Tax and assured them that if introduced into Egba land large amount of revenue will be raised.

The Alake invited two clergymen some old men of Ake Church and Balogun Durojaiye Sowemimo of Ibadan to the Palace on the 12th inst and told them that he learnt that the Liquor Traffic will be stopped by the white men and if that will be the case there will not be sufficient cash to run the present Government. He would also like them to suggest other ways whereby Revenue can be got to carry on the Government. Although all the speakers promised to give the subject their consideration, Durojaiye Sowemimo assured the Alake that whatever suggestion the Alake may make, will have the support of all.

Another meeting of the above ministers and some old men with Balogun Sowemimo's clique took place on Saturday 13th instant at the Palace on the same subject but nothing definite was arrived at.

The Roman Catholics celebrated their Corpus Christi festival on Sunday 14th inst. The procession started from the Church, took the direction of Isale Ake rounded the walls of the Convent and took the course to Ake square, where it halted for some religious exercises and returned another way to the Church. The Government Secretary took the place of the Alake in front of the Canopy stepping gingerly to the tune of "Onward Christian Soldiers" played by the Police Band in attendance.

Letters to the Editor

A Religious Contention.

St. Stephen's Church Parsonage,
Moloney Bridge Street,
Lagos.

June 15th 1914.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NIGERIAN CHRONICLE"

Sir,

I herewith forward enclosed copy of letter written by me to Bishop Oluwola on his address on "The Church and Native Custom" and ask you kindly to publish same. When published, kindly forward a copy each to Bishops Tugwell, and Johnson and also to Bishop O'Rorke, Accra; Bishop Walmaley, Sierra Leone; Archbishops of Canterbury and York; The Bishop of London, The President of the Wesleyan Conference, Bishop Terrien of the Roman Catholic Church, Lagos; Archdeacons Crowther, Bonny; and Melville Jones, Oyo; Revs S. S. Macarthy, Bonny; J. Max. A. Cole, Okrika; and Pinnook, Abeokuta, for which I enclosed stamps.

Thanking you in advance,

I am,

Yours faithfully,

J. G. CAMPBELL.

ENCLOSURE.

Copy of a Letter from the Very Rev J. G. Campbell, West African Episcopal Church to the Right Revd Bishop Oluwola, Anglican Church, Lagos.

St. Stephen's Church Parsonage,
Moloney Bridge Street,
Lagos,

10th June 1914.

To the Right Revd Bishop Oluwola D.D.

Right Revd. Sir,

In reading your address in the "In Leisure Hours" of June 1914 on "The Church and Native Custom," I came across the following in page 81:—"That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood and from things strangled and from fornication" Commenting on this you said: "Of the four things thus prohibited, the only one absolutely sinful is fornication." Again in another part you said:—"The eating of meats offered to idols or blood or things strangled is no sin in itself." With deference to your position Sir, I beg most respectfully to submit that this statement is misleading; and if translated into Yoruba as it is, will do great harm to those whom the churches are just drawing out from idol worship, and it will wound the conscience of the weak brethren. You again said that the Apostles only enjoined these injunctions in order not to shock the scruple and susceptibilities of their Jewish converts. This Sir I say is not the case Read Genesis Chapter 9 verse 4. "But flesh with

the life thereof which is the blood thereof shall ye not eat." This Injunction existed before Judaism, from the Maker of the Universe himself and therefore the Apostles only laid down through the direct guidance of the Holy Spirit a law equally binding on all who name the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. The killing of animals for the purpose of food by strangulation causes unnecessary pain to the poor dumb creatures and is therefore inhuman; and as Christianity is a religion of mercy and tenderness this virtue should also be exhibited not only to human beings but also to dumb animals.

Meat offered to Idols.

With regard to meat offered to Idols a careful study will show that this is intended for a Sacrifice and a propitiation. The Christian who partakes of the meat offered to Idols has practically disobeyed the injunctions of the second Commandment in acknowledging by his act any other God besides the Great Jehovah, or any other Sacrifice besides that which was offered by our Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary for all mankind. Sir, will you administer the discipline of the Church on a Christian who partakes in an idol feast or not? or will you say it is things indifferent in itself and therefore your clergy should not mind? And supposing the Christian whom I may now term a backslider quote you as an authority what explanation will you give Sir? An act that is not sinful in itself is no sin and therefore no punishment could be meted to the supposed offender since he has not offended. The Late Bishop Crowther taught that this act is a sin in itself for it is a practical denying of the Lord Jesus Christ whether done in public or in secret. Hundreds of Christians at Bonny suffered death and persecution rather than taste of the meat or Liquor offered to Idol. Must we now infer that these people have not suffered martyrdom and that they have not suffered for the Christian faith, but that they have died under a mistaken notion that they are doing God's will? Sir will you please kindly be more explicit? Bishop James Johnson not only forbids Christian eating meats offered to Idols but also goes farther and forbids Christians partaking of the meat offered by Mohamedans during the Ramalan Festivals. Nine tenths of the Christians of Lagos adopt it and it has greatly furthered the progress of Christianity in Lagos since the last eighteen years. Are we now to understand from your saying that the Apostles enjoined precepts which does not worth much? If three out of the four are not essentials and not sin in themselves the last therefore on which you try to hamper on is no sin according to the inference that should be deducted from your statement. If one, much more three of the ten commandments be things indifferent the whole then becomes indifferent and cannot be binding. That's the inference that any reasonable man will deduct from your statement and therefore not for my sake but for the sake of the Christian religion and the Yoruba speaking Christians, will you kindly be more explicit before putting your address in print in Yoruba? If that is not done Sir your pronouncement on Ogboni, Egbe Ode, Parakoyi &c. have no authority and the decree of the first Church Council of undivided Christendom which met under the direct guidance of the Holy Spirit is set at naught by your Church in Yorubaland as things indifferent and not binding.

Vernacular Versus English Education.

Although you were very guarded on that point yet one can easily infer without any strain of words that you pleaded for vernacular Education. This is not the time that any native should allow himself to be taken away by the sophistry of the white man and plead for vernacular Education. We have no other weapon with which to hold our ground with the white man than by getting the highest English Education we can for ourselves and our children. In the ordinal of the Church of England it is stated that no one be admitted to the ministry who is not learned in the Latin tongue. Because the Latin language was the civilized and dominant language of the age therefore the Church was determined that all her children through their clergy should get the best that the time can give. In the same way the native African should be determined if we are not all going to be made hewers of wood and drawers of water for the white man that every boy and girl should not only be conversant with the English language but strive to attain to the highest English Education that the white man can give. The majority of the present day white man hates the educated Africans because in Education he has been and can be on a par with him. But the greatest fault of most Educated Africans is immediately they have got to the summit and attained their ambition they strive to draw their children up and then push down the Ladder that others may not reach them. But events are transpiring which ought to make us throw away our selfishness and become more patriotic.

Synod's Resolution on Governor General Lugard's Speech.

It is not within my Province to interfere in your Synod's Resolution. But the above Resolution is a matter that concerns every native in Nigeria. Take the Resolution of itself with its additional amended phrase of the next days Proceedings. You may say it means nothing than an expression of your Synod's Loyalty to the Government. You must remember Sir that no other British Colony can boast of Loyalty to the British Crown and Government than Lagos. Why then was the hue and cry of the public against the Resolution? Because you, Sir, and the Majority of the members of your Synod know very little of politics or of political tactics and diplomacy. How nice was the Governor's Speech but despite all these sweet words he has already drafted a Provincial Court Ordinance which if enacted as it was will surely take away the liberty of the people; undermine in no little way the fair and just manner in which justice is still administered in the Southern Province and bring oppression on us poor natives. The greatest fault of the native clergymen and ministers is that they do not study politics. Bishop Johnson was the only one who study politics and who can deny that he has not done a world of good and save us from a lot of oppression? I am sure, Sir, that if you and your black clergy have studied the Provincial Courts Ordinance and also the critical times in which we are now and the Governor General's attitude in trying by sweet explanations to enact it unmodified into law and the game of the whole show of the Resolution as it passed between those concerned as stated in The Times of Nigeria of May 26 1914 you would have strongly advised Bishop Tugwell, your colleague, to withhold his Resolution. Politics wants special study. Governor

Lugard's Provincial Courts Ordinance is the first Ordinance since our connection with the British Government that introduces class Legislation, when one Law is to be for the whites and one for the Blacks. Do you think you and the black clergy will be free from it if it is enacted? Remember the Regulation relating to cabin passage in the government steam launches. Are you not obliged, just to save yourself the worry, to travel sometimes Deck Passage when duty calls? If I well remember was not Bishop Johnson refused a Cabin Passage sometime ago? Such things never occur before because there was no loophole given to negro-phobist white men. Remember again the doings of some of the D.C's in Northern Nigeria and their treatment of Educated natives. We cannot justly accuse the Government for such acts of its servants but this I can say if the Governor General determines to set an iron foot against this act, not with the diplomacy of a Politician by taken for granted what the men on the spot says, but with the firm conviction of conferring the rights of each individual subject, white or black, we will soon hear no more of such doings. We all know how negrophobists were incensed at the respect shown by Governor Macgregor for native chiefs and do you hear that any Chief or Educated native was lightly esteemed by his subordinate officers during his administration? You would have waited a bit to see the Governor General's Policy before commending his fine speeches. Actions speak louder than words. Pray Sir, that God in His mercy will avert whatever injury to our liberty that Resolution would have brought if the public have not cried out against it. Firmly believing that God will plead the cause of our race and defend us from the machinations of all haters of the race and believing also that God will maintain undefiled the true Doctrine of His Church through out the ages against the interpretations and traditions of men until the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

I have the honour to remain,

Right Revd Sir,

Your most obedient and humble servant,

J. G. CAMPBELL,

Patriarch W.A.E.C.

A Warri Criminal Action.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NIGERIAN CHRONICLE"
Sir,

I beg to submit for Public information through the medium of your paper the following report:—

(1) During the month of December last, I made an application for a warrant of arrest against one Wankwo of Akwets for the charge of Larceny of Two (2) empty Casks from my Canoe about a month ago.

(2) However, the clerk of the Court was on that day busily engaged with his Books, when he only received 5/- cost of warrant from me and told me to send for it again, the following day. I sent my boy by name Ibe-awuchi for the warrant, who after a great deal of delay, returned back with a Court messenger during my absence and arrested my brother Wankwo instead of the right man I issued the warrant against.

(3) On my return I found this; and remonstrating with the boy for the mistake he has made, the same evening I wrote to the clerk of the Court, and explained the facts, who instantly forwarded my paper attached to his own note to the District Commissioner at Aba (20 miles distant from Akwete) asking authority to release the wrong Prisoner. The messenger spent two days on the journey before his arrival with the instruction from the District Commissioner authorising the release of the said Wankwo. This is a copy of the Commissioners note:—

“Yes, release the Prisoner and make Prosecutor to pay the cost of ration.”

(Signed) A. R. WITTMANN,
Ag: District Commissioner.

On Receipt of this, the clerk immediately sent for me and asked for the refund of the ration fees—I paid him one shilling 1/- and Wankwo was released. Two weeks afterwards, my Brother was advised by some ill-disposed persons, to take a warrant against me for false imprisonment. On the 7th day of January, 1914, He approached the District Commissioner who authorised the warrant to be issued against me and signed it, On the 8th January, 1914, I was brought out to be tried. My younger Brother Wankwo being ill-advised as aforesaid made all unnecessary statements against me in order that the Court may have it as truth and thereby inflict a severe punishment on me. From false evidence it appeared to the Court that I had intentionally issued the warrant of arrest against him and not to the other Wankwo. Notwithstanding my defence and thinking that after refunding the ration fees, that the case will no more be made serious, to my surprise, instead of the infliction of fines or Damages, a Verdict was pronounced against me. The following are the proceedings;—

“IN THE NATIVE COUNCIL OF OBOHIA.

PROTECTORATE OF SOUTHERN NIGERIA.

Action No. 4 of 8/1/14.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| A. R. Wittmann | President. |
| Chief Wulunta | Vice President. |
| „ Wachuku | } Members. |
| „ Alioha | |
| „ Wonnoha | |

CRIMINAL JURISDICTION

N. C. and Wankwo of Akwete
Versus
J. Mc. Kenneth Harry of Akwete

Charge:—

Illegal imprisonment of one Wankwo of Akwete about one (1) month ago. (2) Contempt of Court
Plea Not Guilty on both charges.

V. T. West-India sworn states I am clerk of Obohia N. C. I discovered in the Ration Book that a prisoner who had been arrested was released without complaining in Court. I asked the reason of the Assistant C. N. C. why he was released. He showed me a paper from the District Commissioner authorising the discharge. He had written to the District Commissioner that the wrong person was arrested. I found that the man Wankwo, had been in the lockup for three days. I asked him if he was the wrong person he was left in the lockup for three days. Then Duru could not explain. I called

on Wankwo asking why he was discharged. He told me accused came to the station and asked Wankwo whether he wished the case to be heard at home in the presence of Duru. Duru also asked Wankwo whether he wished the case to be heard in Duru's house or at Akwete. Wankwo said I am a prisoner whatever you say I will agree to; how can I be discharged if I am a prisoner Duru replied do not mind I find a way to write to the District Commissioner there after Wankwo was discharged. After this, I showed the paper to the D. C, at Aba at the end of the month.

No question by accused.

Wankwo sworn states I was in my house when Court Messenger Ude with boy of accused came to arrest me, the boy pointed me out to C. M. I asked C. M. what I had done. I he said Harry had issued Warrant of Arrest against—we came to the station I and other prisoners were put in on row in the Court. Duru Assistant C. N. C. told me Harry took Warrant of Arrest against me charging me with theft of empty cask. That very day I asked for bail, Duru told me accused had with him not to let me out on bail. In the night when putting the prisoners in the Lockup, I refused to go in I said I would not run, I was allowed to remain in Verandah, the same night Harry and Duru came, Harry said; all prisoners are in the Lockup why not this man. My mother brought me chop, I begged him and I was at last allowed to have the chop. All my people begged accused to leave me, also Okorie Eruba, but last accused wrote a letter to Duru, and gave it to Okorie Eruba asking clerk to discharge me. Okorie Eruba sent the letter to clerk by his man Odum, Duru said to me that accused wrote nonsense, he would not give me to any one then Duru asked me where I wanted the case to be tried in Akwete town or in his (Duru's) house, I said I was a prisoner and would wait till D.C. come and explained to him, Duru said he had written to D.C. to discharge me saying I was the wrong man; then I could go and hear the case at home accused and I then went away together. We heard the case at home, the Chiefs said accused did wrong. And accused himself admitted it was bad, he said it was vexation that made him issue the Warrant of Arrest. Chief Waraba brought juju for us to swear not harm each other, accused refused.

No question by accused.

Odum sworn states Okorie Eruba gave me a letter to take to Duru, I gave it to him. Duru said he would not released Wankwo.

No Question by accused.

Okorie Eruba sworn states Wankwo's mother came and begged me to take out Wankwo on bail, I asked what he had done, he said accused had warranted him I begged accused to overlook the case, accused told me he had issued warrant of arrest against Wankwo for two empty casks he had palaver with him as he wrote a letter for him he would not paid. I begged him a great deal and he gave a note for the clerk I gave the note to Odun who took it to the clerk the clerk would not released Wankwo, the clerk said to me he would not released Wankwo, because, before accused had taken the warrant of arrest he (Duru) had warned accused that he would not released Wankwo after he had been arrested. As Duru refused to release Wankwo I went home after same day I saw Wankwo at Akwete he told me the case would be heard at home -I was one of the hearing Chiefs and we settled the case and told accused to pay Wankwo what was due to him Accused said it was vexation of mind that caused him to warrant his brother.

Cross-examined by accused

(Q) Did I give you a paper to the clerk the evening you came to me or not?

(A) Yes.

(Q) The very night when you took the letter to the clerk what did he say to you?

(A) I said I gave the letter to Odum to take to the clerk. I did not go myself.

(Q) And then, what did he say to Odum?

(A) He said he would not release Wankwo.

(Q) Was anybody else present when the clerk told you this?

(A) Nobody was present I met him on the road the clerk (Duru) will not deny.

(Q) How long after the letter was Wankwo returned from the Lockup?

(A) I saw him the next day.

(Q) How many nights were he in the Guard room or Lockup?

(A) I don't know.

(Q) Did the clerk take the letter I gave you to the District Commissioner or not?

(A) I don't know.

(Q) How did you come to be a member during the hearing of this case at Akwete town?

(A) Wankwo called me.

(Q) Was it before or after Wankwo was released that you heard this case at home?

(A) After?

(Q) Was it the custom of your country that judgment of a case always given in favour of the person or parties who called your attention in the hearing of a case or not?

(A) No answer.

Iroha sworn states Wankwo was in the Lockup whilst I was there I do not know the palavar, I found he was released but do not know why.

ACCUSED STATES: - One Wankwo of Akwete stole two of my empty casks, my brother Wankwo also owed me two empty casks; I had a quarrel with Wankwo one day, and was also looking every where for the other Wankwo, one day, I saw this Wankwo returned from Imo market, I took warrant of arrest against him the clerk was so busy that he told me to return back next day, I sent one of my small boy the next day for the warrant, because I have already paid five shillings cost of the warrant to the clerk, I waited but I couldn't see them in time I went away on other business, in the evening I returned and saw that the warrant had been executed on my brother Wankwo. I asked the boy why he had not seen me first before his doing so, I remonstrated with him. But however the same evening Chief Okorie Eruba came to me and asked me to give him permission to bail Wankwo. I told him plainly that the warrant of arrest was wrongly executed on Wankwo, I gave him a note to the clerk for the purpose, when they came to the station they could not find the clerk who was then on leave and the letter was given to Mr. Duru, the Assistant clerk of the Court who refused to grant bail but promised to send the paper to the District Commissioner and reported same to me when the reply came the D. C. ordered that the prisoner should be released and to tell the prosecutor to pay for his Ration.

I asked the clerk what was the fees he said 4d a day I paid 1/- one shilling. I have a copy of the paper sent to the D. C. through the clerk (A copy produced) all the prosecutor's statements are false misrepresentations as well as his witnesses.

Wakirie sworn states: I know nothing of this case.

To Duru sworn states: On December 10th the clerk was absent accused applied for w/a against one Wankwo for Larceny of (2) two empty casks, I issued a w/a against Wankwo, He was arrested, about (2) two days later chief Okorie Eruba sent a note to me asking to bail Wankwo, I told him the clerk instructed me to give no bail, about 5 o'clock a.m. I saw accused with the note, he said he came from some country that he did not it was this Wankwo who was arrested, his boy did not point out the right man. I said I had no right to release him, accused worried me so I took the letter and attached it to one I sent to the D. C. D. C. told me to release the man and get cost of Rations for Wankwo from accused I told Wankwo to go, that is what I have to say, accused refunded 9d for Rations to me I gave it to Mr. West Indian on his return accused gave me 1/- one shilling saying daily cost was 3d per diem.

Guilty. 6 Six months Imprisonment with Hard Labour.

(Signed) A. R. WITTMANN,
Ag: District Commissioner.
8/1/14.

Certified true Copy

Fees paid 18/-

(Sgd) S. T. D. Toby.

C.N.C. incharge.

19/2/14."

To be Continued.

Continued from page 2

or punishment may set the breakage down for "intense heat" A clinical thermometer in a house with thick mud walls and with corrugated iron sheets for a covering, let us say, cannot get burst according to the Major's showing at 112 or 88 degrees which are the mean and highest temperatures recorded in the shade. A clinical thermometer is always bored to register as high a temperature of 115 degrees and a certain amount of high pressure must be exerted on the tube to shatter it.

The fact that a man works under an atmospheric temperature of 120° to 140° does not mean that his internal temperature will correspond with the former for it has been proved that no individual can live at 113 degrees.

That a man of the Major's importance, so professedly good towards Educated Natives, should fall into the common error of running them down just because they strive to acquire knowledge affords a chance for the study of human nature. "The absolutely raw native" the Major and men of his ilk prefer because they could easily be deceived. As a rule Europeans have no quarrel with uneducated natives; their enemies are the educated ones who may contend the field with them. What connection is there, we ask, between "coat and trousers" and a man's intellectual attainment? Is it now not clear why the wholesale dismissals of native surveyors took place quite recently? A man cannot "show remarkable aptitude for surveying" and yet lose with education the sense of what he had possessed even without that training. We stand corrected.

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News from IBADAN.

The whole town here is so to speak up-side-down. There are many arrests and suspicion. An era of wholesale persecutions (prosecution is not the word) seems dawning and it is only God who can save the innocent.

Mr. Ross is desirous of knowing who I am—"that abominable Regius." Why not enquire from the Editor rather than his questionable tactics.

The pity of the whole thing is that there are some class of people to be found in the unpaying game of telling tales to their white masters or heads of Departments to the detriment of poor innocent people of their own colour. No doubt they at times succeed in blackening innocent folks hardly thinking that as sure as the night succeeds the day their own judgment must follow. Another Pharaoh will reign that will not recognize Joseph.

The latest Mr. Editor is the proposal to shadow your Office and those of your cotem for imaginary Emissaries from this end. I shall not be far from correct if I say that the Officials plenipotentiary have been despatched. Good luck to——. Why people who persist in wickedness should be so fearful of their actions being made public is what I cannot understand.

Ibadan is being broken up and the havoc that the fellows are doing is simply beyond expression.

Witnesses in fictitious cases are housed and fed and screwed by those who make them and from their Residencies they proceed to act like the Gramophone. The special roadway to the Commissioner's quarters through private property continues in the usual style characteristic of the Commissioner.

Captain Elgee has published an interesting book on Ibadan which has been made confidential: why so I cannot say; but I hope to give your readers soon something of its contents.

Who is the true Captain Ross?

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NEWS OF THE WEEK

HOME

Birthday Honours

The Order of C. M. G. has been conferred on Major H. C. Moorhouse D. S. O. and the Honourable Sapara Williams.—*Reuter*.

The Honourable C. A. Sapara Williams C. M. G. received congratulatory addresses from the Bench and Bar at a function held at the Court Hall, Tinubu Square on Tuesday the 23rd instant, a few hours before his departure for England on board the R. M. S. "Abosso." There were present the White Cap Chiefs and a goodly number of influential citizens of the native community. A full report of this function will appear in our next. We hope to see the Honourable gentleman recruited in health and much benefitted by the Trip.

The libel case instituted by the Hon. C. A. Sapara Williams against The Lagos Standard and its Correspondent "Watchman" was decided on Thursday the 18th instant in favour of the plaintiff and judgment was read on Tuesday the 23rd instant. The fine was 300 guineas with cost to be taxed.

The following extract from a despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies has been published in the Nigerian Gazette of June 25th 1914.

"The enactment of the Provincial Courts and Supreme Court Ordinances has been delayed solely in consequence of the technical question of the form of enactment."

Regius' News from Ibadan and other letters crowded out.

News from ONDO

It is reported from Ondo that the Chief Sasere, one of the "Iwara" of Ondo, died last week aged about 100 years. This Chief succeeded the late chief Sasere Ayotilarewa in 1905.

News from ABEOKUTA

The cleverly laid dynamite of a plot contrived by a master of intrigue and cabal exploded at the meeting of the 18th instant when "the persecuted Chief" was shockingly abused and the memory of his late father defamed in open Council. The Councillors rivetted to their seats, stared blankly whilst the projectiles from the quick firer were doing the havoc. But the insulted bore the indignities with Stoic indifference. No shadow of an explanation was tendered to the Council as to the *casus belli* notwithstanding the solicitations of "the persecuted Chief" and the other members of Council. The late Pastor of Ake Church hath said it that so long the Chiefs receive stipends as members of Council not as Chiefs of township

they will always be treated as slaves.

Report says a letter has been forwarded to the Alake by the Mohamedan section protesting against the payment of Poll or House Tax, and advising the Government to cut its coat according to its cloth. Public opinion is that the Government should reduce its expenditures by curtailing salaries from the Alake downwards.

At the Council meeting of the 18th inst the Councillors were informed that they will be responsible for the collections and custody of monies subscribed from house to house of each township. That the object is to defray any expenses for Fetish rites or any expenditures devolving on the townships. This is the ruse placed before the Chiefs. Day after day meetings are being held at the Palace and the matter of Poll Tax misrepresented to the people invited as mere paltry collections at the disposals of the Chiefs for sacrifices or Native Custom.

The Commissioner, the Government Secretary, and the President Native Court who were absent from town since the 15th inst. on a visit to Owode and Ajura districts returned to Headquarters on the 22nd inst. The saying "this is my own native land" appears entirely out of reckoning with Mr. Edun when he draws the princely allowance of 10/- a day for every day he is absent from the town besides the salaries of £41. 13. 4 per month as the Government Secretary and £4. 3. 4 as Judge of the Native Court. If the love of dear father-land made him halt awhile at £500 per annum taking soundings, what rate would he have fixed his salary if the Government Secretary were a Kroc-man or a Congolese.

There is some gruesome stories told in connection with the visit of the Commissioner, the Government Secretary and the President of the Native Court. Two men father and son were said to be beaten almost to death at Ajura for refusing to prostrate to the Commissioner and to do free labour re making roads at Onipatako. The Ijemo Township have made representation to the Alake on the matter. The son is reported to be in a dying condition at present. This news if true confirms the report made now and again of the high-handed actions of the Egba Police and the employers of the Government in the Iarm districts. A favourite Commissioner hath said "Abeokuta is a hot bed of crime."

The Nigerian Chronicle.

"Affairs of Nigeria" Examined and Criticized.

The Northern Nigeria Correspondent of "The African Mail" has read motives into the criticisms levelled against his Patron by some local newspapers. Said he, "they (the newspapers) have been inspired by two motives principally. By the belief that you have advocated the Crown taking over the land of the country i.e. assuming ownership.....and to facilitate the freehold acquisition of land in the interior by individuals of their class." As a matter of fact Mr. Morel, as Editor of "The African Mail, and the Travelling Correspondent of the London Times and Manchester Guardian" did advocate in the public papers that the ownership of land from the Native communities be transferred to the crown, and that the natives be dispossessed of their rights of ownership. Although he got Mr. Harcourt, in a letter dated October 22, 1913 to say that no proposal to transfer the ownership of the land from the native communities to the Crown or to disposes them of their land has ever been made to him (Mr. Harcourt) by Mr. Morel "yet this Northern Nigeria Correspondent" a member of "the Political Intelligence Department is now discrediting that statement and he is in a position to know. For he wrote:—

"Your (the African Mail's) view is believed to be identical with the views of the administration in this matter. The greatest boon which would happen to the Western Province would be an intelligent endeavour to follow out a policy of the kind you have yourself often advocated....."

Mr Morel himself was very careful in his letter to Mr Harcourt to avoid asking whether the suggestion was proffered by him as Editor of the African Mail or as The Travelling Correspondent of the London Times and Manchester Guardian. Mr Morel advocates a "reconstruction" of the Yoruba land laws on a national basis although he was absolutely ignorant of the nature of the laws and on his presumption started to enunciate principles which exist in his own imagination. It is the exposure of his errors which he now interpretes as a desire on the part of the local press to see facilitated the acquisitions of freehold property in the interior by individuals of their class.

Native opinion—enlightened and educated—are against the policy of the kind advocated by Mr. Morel and there is hardly any one of these in sympathy with him, save a few Government Officials and some native ministers who must necessarily support these views in order to secure to them their jobs. One of such men is the Egba Government Secretary, Mr. Edun, who although when in England was openly opposed to Mr. Morel's views is now working detrimentally against the native interest he pretends to espouse, by lending himself a willing and ready tool in the hands of those Commissioners who would utilize his services for their

Official ends, and then turn round and insult him on the bargain. Political developments at Abeokuta today under the "Chief Engineer" show that Mr. Edun deserves to be pitied. His "At Home" in honour of Messrs J. K. Coker and F. E. Williams of the 12th May where speeches were delivered on Land Tenure in Egba land reached the hearing of the Northern Nigeria correspondent of the African Mail, and became the subject of a newspaper discussion in England just 3 days after. For this member of "the Political Intelligence Department to suit the purpose which he wrote said:— "The Abeokuta people are well-to-do and busy, and they do not in the mass understand — what would be the ultimate consequence of the practice which Edun (the Secretary), and a few other rich Abeokutans have started, if it were extensively followed." Mr. Edun politically is a danger to the true interest of the native communities. A man "in position of high responsibility" in the State, he has acted and is acting politically disgracefully, demeaning the dignity, respect and honour which such a position ought to carry. Money! money!! money!!! is his cry. Those who know the Secretary's political tendency are of the opinion that his aim is to satisfy personal interest in scouring in perpetuity, according to English ideas of perpetuity, the lands now owned by him; and to secure the good will of the British Government through whose influence he may be retained in his present position. But he seems to forget that so far as his latter reason is concerned he is indulging in an idle dream; for no sooner his masters have obtained their desires and he can be no more useful to them; he will be cast away like a soiled glove to bewail a fate like Wolsey's—"Had I but served my God as I had served my King &c."

In the accomplishment of such an end which does not make for the interest of the people, political deception holds the prime place. Under such a system it is an easy matter to represent the same thing to three classes of people under three aspects politically; and they stand out to receive the ideas as a judge to pronounce on those views as if they originate from the people themselves. That this is the political dodge obtaining at Abeokuta today especially with illiterate Chiefs, is very well known. Customs having no bearing upon desired legislation are made the basis of forthcoming measures. For example occasional voluntary contributions from native households in times of political crisis have now been interpreted as a system of taxation by natives, upon which system the Government of Abeokuta through its Secretary is now asking for a permanent and annual Poll, Land, Hut, House or Compound Tax; dignified by any adjective you like it is the same thing.

We have come out so openly as we do, because the Government of Abeokuta is always lending itself as a tool for the introduction into Nigeria of legislative measures obnoxious and foreign to the people. The "Seditious offences Order" became law there ere it was introduced into the Legislative Council here as a Bill which proved unsuccessful. The Shops Order in Council now in force at Abeokuta, and which has been the ruin of the trade of the country, was followed here by an attempt to introduce Hawkers License and Market Dues. The obnoxious land question which has now unsettled the minds of every West African had its origin at Abeokuta. And now we find a proposed taxation, where "each compound is assessed," at a time, when this question of taxation is much agitating the minds of the public and protests everywhere are loud and long, is mooted out by the authorities of Abeokuta to serve as a handle for the Nigerian Government to impose this burden upon the community.

Letters to the Editor

Trade and the Public Servant.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NIGERIAN CHRONICLE"

Dear Sir,

The within enclosed correspondence are of sufficient public interest and I think you will be in a position to express an opinion on the subject with which they deal. As a man in business and one who represents a Foreign Firm in this country I think that in fairness to all other interests similar to mine, it is not the correct thing for public servants to compete with us in trade. I may further state that the revenue from which they are paid are derived from Trade. Why then stand in the way of those who are providing same?

Yours truly,
A FOREIGN AGENT.

Lagos, June 20, 1914.

ENCLOSURES

I

NOTICE

The 4th Battalion, Nigeria Regiment, Soda Water Factory, will open on Monday, 15th. June for the sale of Aerated Waters.

The Factory will be worked under Medical supervision and the water will be periodically submitted for bacteriological examination.

(A copy of the Director of Medical Research Institute's certificate is printed below).

The price of Soda Water (10 oz. bottles) will be 8d. per dozen.

Lemonada, Ginger Beer, etc. 1/4d. per dozen. (Bottles will be delivered in cases containing two dozen.)

A deposit of 3d. per bottle (6/- per case) must be made by purchasers to cover the cost of bottles which will be returnable on depositor notifying his discontinuance of custom.

The Soda Water Factory will undertake the delivery and collection of all bottles.

Orders to be sent to the Officer in charge Soda Water Factory, 4/ Nigeria Regiment.

O. F. LENKE, LIEUTENANT,
Officer in charge Soda Water Factory.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that I have made a bacteriological analysis of the water used and prepared in the Regimental Soda Water Factory at Lagos.

The tests proved that the process of sterilization is efficient.

(Sgd.) A. CONNAL,
Director of Medical Research Institute.

II

Sir,

I have the honour to bring to your notice Colonial Office Regulation No. 40.

"Salaried public officers whose remuneration is fixed on the assumption that their whole time is at the disposal of the Government are prohibited from engaging in trade, or employing in any Commercial or Agricultural undertaking."

2. It is found that certain Government Officials have taken out licences under the Illiterate Ordinance, and in some cases, as far as can be gathered, make a great deal more at that than their salary amounts to.

3. Please see that in future no licence under the Ordinance quoted is issued to Government Officers.

4. Those Government Officers in your district who have already taken out licences must be warned to desist from further writing for profit.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd)

Commissioner,

The District Officer,
Province.

III

Commissioner,

Province.

Sir,

About five weeks ago I had your clerk _____ up before me and told him that under Colonial Office Regulation No. 40 he was not entitled to write letters for a fee.

2. I am aware that he has a license but it must have been granted in error, he probably not informing the District Officer when taking it out that he was in Government employment.

3. I have today received a letter written by him _____ for which he charged _____. I have told _____ that I cannot deal with the letter and that he should get his money back, through the Court if necessary, as it was obtained by _____ under false pretences.

4. I shall be much obliged if you will call on _____ to explain why, after my warning he has accepted a fee for writing a letter and to show cause why his dismissal from the service should not be recommended for deliberately infringing the Regulations.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.)

Commissioner.

IV

Sir,

I beg most respectfully to submit as an explanation to the Commissioner's letter ——— the following:—

1. The interpretation of C. O. Regulation 40 is definite and clear, and, it lays specific restriction on trade and commercial and agricultural employments with all or any of which the undertaking or writing letters for illiterates under proper license for fee does not appear to have the slightest connection, I submit Sir, that I have committed no offence against the Regulation cited.

2. I obtained a license in my capacity as a Government Clerk on the advice and to the knowledge of ——— the District Officer.

3. With reference to para: 3 of the Commissioner's letter I beg to state that ——— approached me in my Quarters with a request that I should, for a fee, write for him a letter to Government which I did and obtained in return a sum within the limit laid down by law, ———

4. In this circumstance nothing beyond a legitimate contract outside my official duties was the transaction between ——— an illiterate man, and myself a licensee, and it is painful to the extreme for me to know from the Commissioner's letter, that this transaction was, on my part an act of obtaining money under false pretences.

5. On the ——— the Commissioner ——— called in at this Office and demanded my presence before him. There he told me to desist from writing letters for illiterates and, I informed him that not only did I write these letters with a full knowledge of my responsibilities and obligations as a Public Officer, but did so under license. He then told me that unless I wrote no more letters he would surely see me in Prison.

6. As I obtained my license from ——— the District Officer, who is well aware of my official identity, I therefore wrote a letter to him requesting information as to what course I was to adopt to rid myself of the license in connection with the serious promises I had had from ——— the Commissioner—to this letter, I have up to now received no reply.

7. Further to this, the ——— called me recently into his Office and showed me copy of a Circular, purporting to have come from the Commissioner expressly for the District Officer, ——— on the matter of Clerks writing letters for illiterates. I then informed the ——— that ——— had spoken to me on the matter before and in consequence I had written to the District Officer as to what steps I was to take in the matter.

8. I submit most respectfully Sir, that:—

(a). Circular Instructions for the guidance of officials are generally referred to them in the official way and are so noted by them and returned. In this case I was merely shown the contents of a communication addressed neither to the ——— nor to me but to the District Officer, ——— to which it was not within my power to give effect.

(b). Assuming that my impression of what I believe I read in the Circular in question is correct, then Sir, it was only a specific instruction from the Commissioner to the District Officer to call for and withdraw all licenses held by Government Clerks, and so far as I am concerned no demand for my license has ever been made by the District Officer or any body.

(c). Having submitted to the District Officer a letter embodying the difficulties which seem to have arisen out of the Commissioner's serious promises to see me in Prison, and sought in that letter for his advice and instructions as to what I was to do under the circumstances, to which, as already stated I have up to now received no reply—I have therefore in no way yet committed.

9. As the whole trouble seems to have arisen from the facts of my own interpretation of C. O. Regulation 40 being at variance with the construction which the Commissioner has placed upon it, and a doubt has thereby been created I most respectfully beg to request that I may be permitted to avail myself of the privileges reserved in the latter clause of C. O. Regulation 41 by appealing to His Excellency the Governor for a ruling in this matter.

10. I submit Sir, with all due deference and with the utmost respect that in no way have I, from the above stated facts deliberately infringed C. O. Regulation 40, nor even the Illiterate Protection Ordinance under and by which, only, in this particular, I could have rendered my license liable to forfeiture and myself open to criminal prosecution according to law, a course which is generally antecedent to the institution of proceedings to which as a Public Officer, my conduct might have rendered me liable of under C. O. Regulations 68, 69 and 70.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

The C. M. S. Squad and Nigerian Affairs

I have read with very great interest your criticism on the article "Affairs of Nigeria" (from a Northern Nigerian Correspondent special to the African Mail) and the article itself as reproduced in the last issue of your paper. I have been able to find that the main substance of the Mail's article is to hoodwink the British public, particularly those whom God has in his infinite love and mercy set apart to champion the cause of subject races, and save them from oppression and dismay. Whoever the writer may be, be he white or black, native or non-native, let me remind him that the Righteous Judge is above, the Supreme Ruler of the universe. He will do the right. (He is not moved by the power of the almighty dollar which reigns below.)

In conclusion let me reiterate for the edification of those in the ministry, colours not excepted, the words which came from the pen of His Holiness Pope Pius X to the Archbishop and Bishops of Latin America. "Do you moreover take care that wheresoever moral

Instruction is given in seminaries, in Colleges, in convent schools, and more especially in the churches, christian charity, which holds all men, without distinction of nation or colour, as true brethren, shall be continually preached and commended. And this charity must be made manifest not so much by words as by deeds."

Thanking you for space allotted.

I remain to be,

Dear Mr Editor,

Yours for the race.

BANKOLE

Lagos, 18th June, 1914.

Concerning our Criticism on "Nigerian Affairs."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NIGERIAN CHRONICLE"

Dear Sir,

Allow me to congratulate you over your able and logical defence of the rights of your people. Every right thinking person who has no axe to grind must appreciate and admit the reasonableness of your arguments. They are not only conclusive but they are convincing; whilst those who attempt to criticise your views simply appeal to sentiments by trying to raise false alarm. For instance the *Nigerian Pioneer* said that men in position of high responsibility ought not to be criticised by virtue of that position. But it forgets that it is the man who makes the position and not the position, the man. A man may be placed in a position of high responsibility which he is not physically mentally or morally qualified to hold. The fact of his being in that position does not exonerate him from the shortcomings due to his own physical mental or moral obliquity. This is one of the points that has struck me most forcibly as misleading in the statements of your cotem and I thought I should point it out. Thanking you for space.

Yours faithfully,

A READER.

Lagos, 22nd June, 1914.

Political Movement at Abeokuta

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NIGERIAN CHRONICLE"

Dear Mr. Editor,

A certain mischievous farmer from Agege is reported to have attended Egba Council and strongly advised that Poll Tax be imposed on the people of Egba land as a means of increasing their Revenue; that if the authorities refuse to adopt this scheme the white men will force it on them, collect the Tax and will do what they (the white men) like with the Receipts; and it would be wisdom on their part to impose the Tax themselves and pay the money into the Treasury than allow an outsider to collect it. This was the news in circulation when the Alake summoned Revds E. W. George of Iporo, M. S. Cole of the Grammar School, Balogun Sowemimo from Ibadan and the old men of Ake Church, such as Messrs Howells, Carr, Joel, Amos Williams and others, to the Palace on the 12th instant. The Alake is reported to have told them that he received papers, and also learnt from good and reliable persons, that the white man intends to stop the Rum and Gin Trade at an early date. That if they do so there will not be sufficient money to carry on the Government, that the old custom of house to house collection instituted by the old time people has been discontinued. That the Egbas, are the only nation with independent Government, an eyeblister, and if the people fail to keep up their Government the country will fall into the hands of the white man. Knowing that the Christians are the light of Egba land he called the few present to

hear what suggestion they would make by which Revenue can be harvested to conduct the Government. The Alake said further that he will call the Mohammedans and Pagans and hear their opinion.

The next speaker was Alake's Secretary. He talked and talked. To use the Yoruba Proverb *Oso ro ile kun* i.e. he spoke and the ground was full. He corroborated and expatiated on every sentence uttered by the Alake. Mr. Edun's speech was not altogether on the lines of Demetrius although the circumstances appear identical. But even if his words were inciting like those of the Ephesian silversmith, would his hearers create an uproar? A blend of Demetrius with the subtle stirring sermon of a sky Pilot which the congregation is subjected to when the Church collections are on the wane will give you some idea of the speech of the Alake's Secretary.

The gist of the replies from Revd E. W. George and Dady Joel who spoke on behalf of the old men of Ake Church was, that they would go home and give the matter due consideration.

Balogun Sowemimo talked "mighty bigotry" as Beer Rabbit would say. Such silly talks would do when a man is dispensing liquid madness to his retainers. But not on an occasion when opportunity was being sought to put the necks of the poverty stricken population of Egba land on the block of taxation to further Government (i.e. Edun's Administration) which with such unexampled opportunities for doing good, misused them either for doing nothing or for doing evil. The Balogun said *inter alia* that his forebears in their time used to subscribe money out of their pockets towards the upkeep of their Kings and the Government. That the Chief of the Christians should have made such glaring misrepresentation surprised everybody. He is a man whose appointment to all intents and purposes ought to make him a school for morals and his religion at best an anxious wish, "a great perhaps." The words of this Chief were not Sunday School words but have a kind of a bully swing in them. He is reported to have used the following expression "we shall support whatever measure the Alake will devise to increase the Revenue. And woe betide anyone who will offer contrary opinion or oppose Alake's Scheme." If this is his utterance, it is an addition to the accumulated proofs of the green indiscretion and rashness of judgment of Balogun Sowemimo. No one should be surprised if such words fell from his lips considering that rumour had given it out that he was in favour of abolition of Liquor Traffic and introduction of Poll Tax into Egba Land. The gist of Revd. M. S. Cole's speech was that he read in a paper that the King of Oyo will probably be made the paramount King of all the Yoruba speaking people. The Egbas should support their Government as not to allow it to fall into other hands.

It was a matter of great surprise that the Alake and his Secretary did not inform the meeting of the scheme submitted to the Council by the mischievous farmer of Agege. Obviously they have kept it as a trump card which one day they will force on the nation with the message that the British Government demanded the payment of Poll Tax in Egba land. If they refuse, troops will be requisitioned for to compel them.

Carlyle on the "Signs of the Times" says "The true Church of England at this moment lies in the Editors of its newspapers. These preach to the people daily, weekly." As such you are a part of the Church of Nigeria. We read, mark, learn and inwardly digest what you preach. May God bless you and crown your labours with success.

I thank you for your kind indulgence.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

ASATI.

Abeokuta, June 20th, 1914.

News from and around Warri Province.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

About two months ago, Mr. Douglas the Commissioner of Warri Province, went to the Prison at about 9 o'clock at night and demanded admission into the Compound. The Gang driver by name OBODO who was in charge at the gate not knowing who the man was (it was a dark night) sternly refused to let him in. Mr. Douglas who kept insisting on getting admittance was directed by OBODO to the keeper for permission otherwise he would not let him in. This suggestion got Commissioner Douglas enraged. He was heard cursing, swearing, jamming and knocking the gates with his walking stick. WANCHUKU another Gang driver hearing the noise ran to the scene, and finding that it was the Commissioner, requested OBODO to allow him to come in. As soon as Mr. Douglas entered the yard he handled, and with his stick, severely beat not only OBODO who had refused him entrance in keeping with the Prison Regulations, but also WANCHUKU through whose interference Mr. Douglas got admission into the yard.

After severely beating OBODO he ordered him to be and was indeed put in chains and kept in custody in the guard room until the following morning when he then caused OBODO to be dismissed* and WANCHUKU fined 2/6d.

On Monday 8th June a gang of Prisoners was sent to Mr Douglas' yard to work. After shewing Gang Driver PETER the area to be worked upon and giving other detailed instructions, he left his Quarters for duty at his office.

On his return in the afternoon, he found any amount of faults with all Gang Driver PETER has had the Prisoners to do, and on the man attempting to offer an explanation he jumped on him with jamming, cursing, etc. The Gang Driver continued to explain and was begging Commissioner Douglas to give him a hearing, but despite the man's humiliating and obedient attitude—even tho it is reported—he carried out exactly what he was instructed to do—Mr Douglas as is common with him to do—very severely beat Gang Driver PETER all over the head with a stick. The man returned to the Prison with his Gang-head and face swollen and bleeding.

* Both OBODO and WANCHUKU were marched by the Gaoler on to Mr. Douglas' Office in the Public Office Building and there judged.

The Warri Native Cemetery which is now almost full and congested is the most disgraceful and neglected of any God's Acre in creation, and if it is not an eyesore to the very Authorities who motor through that way, evening after evening, it is surely an insult to the blessed dead.

Is it any wonder then that for some few nights past there has been so much talk about ghosts? If, of course, they could find no comfort in their last place of rest, they have a right certainly to return to their earthly dwellings. However this is most undesirable.

Already several people who live in the ghost-hunting area have run away from their houses and taken dwellings far from the locality. If the Authorities only knew to what inconvenience and hardships they have ran poor people through their neglect in keeping the Cemetery in that tidy and clean condition in which all Cemeteries are, or should be, they readily would withhold the proposal which I hear is on foot of levying a tax of 8/- for "Grave Dues." Indeed, a very grave suggestion and a grave neglect too! There is also the penalty of mourners and corpse having to wait on their legs or the bare ground for almost an hour whilst the untutored grave diggers go about the job with some sort of graceful reluctance, even though death had been reported and permission to bury obtained hours before the time of interment.

Thanks to goodness! In another month from hence, His Majestic Dreadnought here will be due for leave. This piece of news will gladden the hearts of a good many folks here and around. In offering my congratulations for a well earned leave in advance, I have the full assurance that even the good-hearted "Mammy Mary" will join me at the Transport Wharf to say Au Revoir when the time does come. So may it be.

ADIEU!

[We publish this report from Warri with the object of calling the serious attention of the Government to it and in the interest of the governed and loyal subjects of the King ask that immediate investigation be set on foot to make a continuation of such practice if found correct impossible in a British Colony. Ed. N.C.]

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A Warri Criminal Action

(Guilty Sentenced to 6 Six months imprisonment with Hard Labour.)

Continued from our last issue

Immediately after the Verdict has been pronounced, I asked for Leave to appeal and was refused. After many difficulties, I deputed one of my friend, by name Wanrie of Obohia, to apply for leave to appeal and also for Bail pending the said appeal.

"Form of affidavit of
Wanrie of Obohia"

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE COLONY
OF NIGERIA.

Eastern Province.

Divisional Court

(CALABAR)

Appeal from the Native Council of Obohia in
Criminal Case No 4

N. C. and Wankwo of Akwete (Compts)
versus

J. M. Harry of Akwete Defendant.
Motion Paper

Notice of motion by William Ward Brew Counsel for J. M. Harry for leave to appeal from decision of the Native Council of Obohia in Aba District given on the 8th January, 1914, and for bail pending the final determination of appeal.

Court to be moved on Monday next, the 26th day of January, 1914, at 8.30. a.m. or so soon thereafter as Counsel may be heard.

Dated at Calabar this 24th day of January, 1914.

(Signed) W. WARD BREW.
Defendant's Solicitor.

To be continued

Continued from page 1

The rumour that burglars will visit Lafenwa shortly in state is not believed in some quarters on the ground that these pests avoid places occupied by Europeans; besides it is widely known that the Agent of Messrs Gottschalk and Co does not slumber nor sleep. But in the interest of the firms carrying on business at the above place, not to talk of the Natives who are

sheep for the slaughter, sufficient Police should be kept in the Police Station at Lafenwa to obviate calling for help from the Lagos Police on duty at the Railway Station, as was done last when burglars passed over Lafenwa.

Much as Edun's Administration appreciated the services of the Night hunters it refused to entertain the idea of paying them for their services. The majority of the night hunters have gone on strike. From the suggestion made to the Chief that each township should contribute money to pay the salaries of Night hunters for protecting their lives and properties, the Government neglected its Chief duty and opened opportunity for burglars to prowl about Abeokuta. The occupants of houses at Itoku and Ijeun had rude awakenings from burglars last week. Burglars visited Igbore township only few minutes work from Lafenwa last night break into several houses, wounded a lot of persons and stole a lot of goods. One or two of the wounded have been removed to the Egba Hospital in dying condition. Egba Police where art thou?

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

SUBJECT:—*Original Sin.*

Sunday June 7	Sin as a fact in human nature.
" " 14	" an inherited disposition.
" " 21	The Doctrine as taught in the Bible and its Development.
" " 28	Sermon on Human Depravity its cause and cure.

Sankey's Hymns will be used.

Service commences at 7 p.m. each day.

E. T. Johnson.

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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 of **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 enquires 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 provides 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
Blacksmith Workshop
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St Paul's Parsonage,

Mr. CLAUDIUS JOHNSON, Certificated Marine Engineer and Blacksmith with 16 years experience in the the Royal Niger Company's Workshop and Steamers and sometime connected with Government work Trip Agents, undertakes jobs of all descriptions in Iron and Brass, including repairs of Trucks, Sewing Machines, Cycles, Engines, Ship Hauls Pumps, &c. &c.

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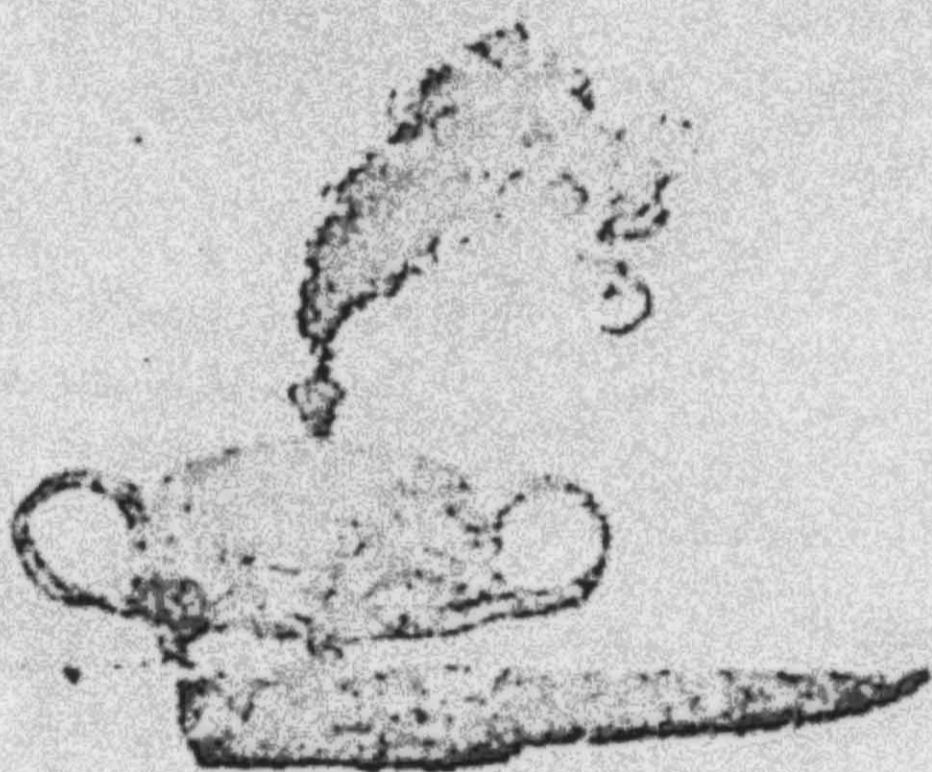
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West Africa and shows how it should be managed..."

20

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mises of A. J. Thomas & Son a
sawing machine where he is pre-
pared to take up the sawing of
Planks for Contract work there
who may desire his services at a
moderate charge.

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ed to Mr H Tuburu King at Elegbata or
Idoluwo

5

Let

THE NIGERIAN CHRONICLE

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

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NEWS OF THE WEEK

HOME

His Majesty the Owa and Council have addressed a letter through H.E. the Governor General to His Majesty the King expressing their satisfaction and appreciation for the Honour recently conferred on the Honourable C. A. Sapara Williams.

We apologize to our numerous Correspondents for the non-publication of their letters etc. from want of space. We hope to insert them in due course.

A marriage has been arranged between Mr. Thomas Oyeade Johnson, grandson of T. W. Johnson Esq., I.S.O. retired Chief Interpreter of the Supreme Court, and Miss Winifred Omolara, younger daughter of Mr. & Mrs. S. Alfred Coker of Balogun Square, to take place on Thursday 9th July at 10.30. a.m., at Olowogbowo Church. No cards.

By wire from *Lafeniwa*. "Editor Nigerian Chronicle SHOBIYE died wednesday night."

News from ABEOKUTA

Troubles of the persecuted paramount Chief continue. Big palavering, Oko township; his people excited rose up and volumes of complaint compiled. Is the Alake a bit better than this Chief? Why plot against one, when the paramount Chiefs are each 6 and half dozen of the other? One has got the monopoly of "Secretary polish" to use which keeps him in proper shine, whilst the others have not. Is it a case of Alexander and the Robber? If the former pillaged cities, the latter hamlets.

A paramount Chief told a Clergyman that if he would not desist from befriending an ex official he will withdraw supporting the pastor. Sunday collections of each of the paramount Chiefs is only three or four pence every Sandays and the other subscription very meagre. A paramount Chief has not been seen in church five Sunday ago since after the above threat was made. The plot to break up a Church was exploded under a powerful sermon of Rev Doherty of the 21/6/14. This is the result of trying to make a church a state concern. Once a church is dominated by officials, it is finished. He that hath ear let him hear.

Young Egbas are running away from the farms and are enrolling as Police constables, labourers, and some are leaving the country for pastures green. It would appear they are disgusted with farming. If such a desertion continues what will become of the occupation much prized by Egba Government? The love for Agriculture is so great, that the Government would not buy some of Phillips Palm Oil making Machines for the farms to expedite their work and allow the people to repay by easy instalment system. Will not such a concession help to increase the quantity of oil to be exported from Egba land?

The subterfuge for passing the Shops Order was that the People of Abeokuta may not become like that of England "a nation of Shop Keepers." It would appear the authorities are straining from this point; for from the Amended Shops Order in Council published (Gazette of May 1914) persons who buy produce by the farm roads are requested to pay Shops License of £2 from 1st of January 1914.

Despite the official cries of hard times the following amounts were drawn this year from the Government Treasury and remitted to England:—January £200 February £930, April £600 Total £1730. Cannot the expenditures entailing these remittances be stopped or greatly reduced? A deposit of £5002. 7. 6 was paid into the Treasury in the months of April and May and entered as Deposit received. Is this not the extra loan given to the Government by the Governor General?

The Ijemo men who were severely beaten at Ajura tied and handcuffed with hands to the back were brought to Abeokuta with others and kept in the Police Station. The father an old man by name Shobiyi has been conveyed to the Hospital to be treated for the severe beating received. His condition was critical. The Alake is reported as preparing and forwarding food to this patient. On the arrival of the men the Alake sent to inform the Ijemo Chiefs of the fact, but the Ijemos are simply looking on.

A burglars prayer and that of a Native Contractor came to the test when on a Sunday the latter went to Church at 8.30 a.m. to pray, and returned to find his three bags which he carefully locked carried away. The favourite Government contractor cannot give accurate figures of the contents of each bag but like an American he can guess and calculate. A police man who has been known to possess some money of his own before joining the force, and is in the habit of giving loans on interest to the members of the Force has been arrested on suspicion and the floor of his house dugged up with vengeance. There is no trace of the missing money. Some people indulge in the practice of exaggerating loss sustained.

Last Thursday night the burglars were at home at Igbore near or in Mr. Oluwole's house. They did their usual function and left some indelible marks on the person of one of the inmates as a memento of their visit.

Victoria Alaba Molake one of the wives of Mr. Okukenu of Itoku breathed her last in the Roman Catholic Hospital on Thursday the 25th instant. The deceased was ailing for some time, and was removed to the above hospital for better accommodation and treatment. She was the eldest daughter of the Alake born before her father was made a King. Visitors and messengers poured like water into the Palace to sympathise with The Alake

The Nigerian Chronicle.

"Affairs of Nigeria" Examined and Criticized.

The Northern Nigeria Correspondent of *The African Mail*, a member of the Political Intelligence Department, and probably one of those "men in positions of high responsibility," felt indignant because, as he alleged, the importance of his Department was underrated. He went on to accuse the Government of which he is part with allowing free rein to all sorts of false rumours and loose terms used in the newspapers instead of removing what he calls "the misapprehensions which occur in consequence of them." "A ball is set rolling," he continued, and *the Government* "watch it rolling and gathering momentum and make little or no effort to alter its direction." To alter this direction the Government is "now adopting a deliberate policy working to considered ends" as suggested by *the African Mail*. The "alteration" beginning with United Nigeria has already manifested itself in five different ways:—

I. It has aimed at the deprivation of the lands and land rights of the natives.

II. It has, in a proposed judicial reform, attempted to rob the people of their rights and liberties.

III. It has attempted to drive away from the field of legal defence practitioners who defend the rights of the people.

IV. It has denied to Medical men admittance into the Civil Service of their country with the hope of discouraging others to take to that profession.

V. It is now proposing to introduce mental slavery in lieu of domestic slavery by restricting knowledge and placing an embargo in the way of private effort to attain knowledge.

To take the medical question about which a letter was addressed to Mr. Harcourt by the Aborigines Rights Protection Society of London, which communication we publish in this issue. The inauguration of a West African Medical Service and the bar that service places against the employment of qualified practitioners who are natives in the Civil Service of their country is pretty well known as they have been discussed times without number in the pages of our paper and those of the other West African journals. The Aborigines Protection realising the injustice done to natives by this inhuman act has recently approached Mr. Harcourt in the letter referred to. The prayer of the letter is plain on the face of it; and it is what any right thinking person, who is a lover of righteousness and is not moved by prejudice, would desire. But what has Mr. Harcourt said to it? We refer our readers to his reply where he said "not all of the remainder (i.e. 14 men according to his own calculation) were, or could be, considered suitable for employment in the public service;" and went further to say "the Governors of the several West African Dependencies are fully impressed with his opinion" The interpretation any man in the street would put on his statement is that these Medicals, who are not under Government employ, are intellectually unfit and morally culpable; especially is this so from the 5th suggestion submitted for his consideration by the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Rights Protection Society. We are of the opinion that Mr. Harcourt simply takes undue advantage of his position to blacken men—gentlemen—who are as morally good in every way as

himself. As to the efficiency of these men in their profession, Mr. Harcourt (and for the matter of that the Governors) is not the man to pass judgment on them since he does not belong to the profession. We prefer to abide by the decision of the Professors and Examiners, eminent men belonging to the same race as Mr. Harcourt and other objectors to their appointments, who after years of tests have pronounced them qualified.

His judgment as it is is also a slur on the British Medical Council who considered these gentlemen, after submitting them to the same examination as their European colleagues qualified to practice and therefore granted them diplomas to that effect. Some of the men whose qualifications he now contemned are more qualified than some European Doctors in the Service. Why then this depreciating remarks? Is not this colour prejudice? It will indeed be a sorry thing if it so from a Department which holds in his grasp the destiny of the millions of dusky loyal subjects of His Majesty the King Emperor. This view has also impugned the integrity and honesty of honourable men experts in their profession, the gentlemen composing the British Medical Council. Of course this honourable body is competent enough to vindicate its cause and request that its reputation which has been so badly damaged in the estimation of the natives be restored.

With such ideas it does not look strange at all that Mr. Harcourt should consider 7 men out of 23 "a high proportion of the available native Medical practitioners" and that the disproportion of 7 natives to 214 Europeans "is more apparent than real." We hope the gentlemen who are immediately affected by this serious allegation will not take it lying down and allow their good name and efficiency to be dragged on the floor, and their practice jeopardized. If the Government sees that they are unfit for its service, why allow them to treat the public registering locally their names as qualified and publishing them once a year in the Government Gazette as suitable men for the public. We earnestly urge upon these practitioners who are so much stigmatized to defend their position for otherwise steps will soon be taken under such conditions to control their practice just in the same way as they would now do with Private or Unassisted Schools.

The Proposed Installation of Mental Slavery

We publish today a letter with enclosure from a London Correspondent which will be an eye opener to most of our readers in Nigeria who are hitherto ignorant of what may be going on behind the scenes. To us it throws light on:—

I. The general policy of the Government. II The meaning of the Governor General's speech at the Exhibition of School Work. III. The rumour sometime current in town re. the closing of Private Schools and the formation of an Association of Headmasters of Private Schools. IV. The report that reached us of the proceedings in the last District Council in the C.M.S. Church at Abeokuta. V. The reported open air trepidation and exclamation of an Ecclesiastic in position of high responsibility in the Streets of Abeokuta VI. The speech said to be delivered by Mr. Henry Carr, Senior Inspector of Schools, then Deputy Director of Education, at a Teacher's lecture at King's College. VII. Bishop Tugwell's motion at the last Synod of the C. M. S. Church in Western Equatorial Africa. VIII. Bishop Oluwole's "Vernacular Education" scheme. IX. The understanding said to be existing between the Local European representatives of the Foreign Missionary Societies respecting their Mission Stations and its concomitant effects on Churches and Schools of African foundation established in Nigeria. Our pages are quite full just now that we leave the discussion of these points for our next issue.

London Gossip.

ROYALTY AT THE DERBY.

London, June 3rd, 1914.

I have not for a long while seen the Queen looking so handsome at the Derby, England's premier horse race of the year. She had provided against a bitter cold wind that was sweeping over the Downs by wearing a full length cloak of ermine which must have contained skins enough to deck out the robes of half the members of the House of Lords. A lady suggested to me that it must have been an expensive birthday present from His Majesty and that that was the reason she looked so supremely pleased. The King took a fancy to a corner of the members' stand and spent a good deal of time there with only a glass partition separating him from the press representatives. He had high hopes of his horse winning, and a good deal of money was put on it by those in Court circles, but to my mind it ran badly, losing ground coming down the hill. But in racing there is always something behind the scenes.

QUEEN MARY'S BIRTHDAY.

Queen Mary has just celebrated the forty-seventh anniversary of her birth. As I have indicated above, people who have recently caught a glimpse of her Majesty may find it hard to realise that she is on the march towards half a century, but while ladies in less august positions may easily conceal the exact date of their introduction to the world, it is not possible in the case of one in her exalted position. It is something however, that both the Queen and King George belie by their looks the ageing figures set forth in almanacks. Her Majesty was naturally the recipient of congratulations from all the royal houses in Europe, from the colonies, and innumerable institutions, and societies at home.

A NEW COURT PHYSICIAN.

There is much speculation at the present time as to who will be appointed to succeed the late Sir Francis Laking as Surgeon-Apothecary to the Royal Household, but it will come as no surprise if his Majesty decides that there is no necessity to fill this post, which is regarded by a great many as having outlived its necessity. The Surgeon-Apothecary draws a salary of £1,000 a year, and it is his duty to attend all the members of the Royal Household free of charge. Seeing that these now number something like seven hundred in all, it cannot be said that the doctor appointed to this position is at all overpaid. It is understood that if the King decides upon appointing a successor to Sir Francis Laking, he will select Dr. Bertrand Dawson, whose advice has been sought upon several occasions lately by several members of the Royal Family. The first choice for this position would have been Sir Frederick Treves, who is already Surgeon-in-Ordinary to his Majesty, had it not been for the fact that he announced some time ago that he had definitely retired from his profession.

Concerning the Employment of Medical Practitioners who are Natives in the Public Service.

The following correspondence on the subject of the employment of accredited Natives in the Medical Service of the Colony has passed recently between the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society of London and the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

COPY.

May 1, 1914

To the Rt. Hon. Lewis Harcourt, M.P.

Sir,

The Committee of this Society has for some time now brought to the notice of His Majesty's Government the disabilities imposed upon qualified native medical men in the West African Colonies. At the same time, every effort has been made by the Society to gather local information upon the subject, both from the standpoint of the doctors themselves, and from those who object to an increased employment of natives in the service of His Majesty's Government.

On January 29, 1913 you gave in the House of Commons the numbers of native and European Medical men in the service as seven and 214, respectively. This disproportion appears to be criticised by all parties with varying severity; but there is the widest difference of opinion as to the solution of the problem and in all probability a satisfactory solution could only be reached by the appointment of a commission to inquire into the whole question of education in the West African Colonies. In the meantime, we beg to submit to His Majesty's Government those suggestions for which there appears to be the largest measure of local support:—

1. That a separate medical body be formed to be called the "Colonial Medical Service."
2. That the "Colonial Medical Service" be distinct from the "West African Medical Staff."
3. That the officers of the "Colonial Medical Service" be under the direction of its own Principal Medical Officer.
4. That the medical men employed in such service be designated Colonial Medical Officers and not local Medical Officers.
5. That the service be open only to fully qualified natives of good character of West African origin.
6. That the salaries of the officers shall be on the same grade as those attaching to the West African Medical Staff, but exclusive of "passage allowance" except the Governor and P.M.O., shall deem otherwise in special cases.
7. That appointments for the "Colonial Medical Service" shall be open to qualified native doctors, until an equal number of European and native Practitioners is employed in His Majesty's service in each Colony.

We have, etc.
(Signed) TRAVERS BUXTON,
Secretary.
JOHN H. HARRIS,
Organising Secretary.

COPY.

Downing Street.

May 16, 1914.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Harcourt to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of May 1, on the subject of the employment by the Government of the West African Colonies and Protectorates of natives of West Africa who possess qualifications in medicine.

2. In the course of last year, Mr. Harcourt made careful inquiries as to the number of qualified medical practitioners, natives of West Africa, who were then residing on the West Coast, and it was found that, excluding those who had been employed by Government and had retired on pension, and one who had been dismissed from the service of Government, there were some twenty-three, of whom the Colonial Governments employed, or were about to employ, seven, in addition to two who were in the employment of a native Government. Not all of the remainder were, or could be, considered suitable for employment in the public service.

3. Mr. Harcourt is, therefore, of opinion that the Colonial Governments in the British West African Colonies already employ a high proportion of the available native medical practitioners, and that the alleged disproportion between the numbers of the European and native medical service is more apparent than real.

4. In the circumstances, the proposal put forward in your letter seems scarcely practicable; but I am to add that the Governors of the several West African Dependencies are fully impressed with Mr. Harcourt's opinion that employment under Government should be open to qualified native practitioners who desire and are found to be suitable for such employment.

I am, etc.

(Signed) H. J. READ

For the Under-Secretary of State.

The Secretary,

Anti-Slavery & Aborigines Protection Society.

The Bar and the Honourable C. A. Sapara Williams C. M. S.

CONGRATULATORY FUNCTION.

On Tuesday the 23rd of June, at 11 a.m., a quiet but important function took place at the Court Hall Tinubu Square at the instance of the Bar Association of the Colony to congratulate the Honourable C. A. Sapara Williams, the leader of that Bar and a member of the Legislative Council of the Colony, on the conferring of the Companionship of the Order of St. Michael and St. George on him by His Majesty the King. The attendance was most representative notwithstanding the shortness of the notice and shows the regard in which the Honourable Gentleman is held. His Honour R. J. B. Ross Acting Chief Justice presided and addressed the gathering as follows:—

I have the most pleasant duty in congratulating Mr. Williams on the honour conferred upon him by His Majesty the King. He has been enrolled a Companion of the order of St. Michael and St. George. I feel, it is most necessary, that the first

public tribute be paid to him in the High Court in Lagos, in a place where he has won so many laurels and discharged his duties with so much distinction. Glad as I am to communicate these words to him, my only regret is that Sir E. Speed is not here to congratulate him personally. I can assure Mr. Sapara Williams that had he been here his congratulations would have been of the warmest nature.

Personally I have known Mr. Williams since 1892 when I first arrived in Lagos and I have had to come in much contact with him. As a lawyer, a leader of the Bar, and a public servant, he is held in the highest esteem by all. He is the best known native and his conduct has ever been marked by the deepest courtesy to all. In the Courts, he has throughout his career maintained the highest traditions of the Bar, and upheld the prestige of the profession to which he has the honour to belong. I can conceive no more fitting recipient of this great honour than Mr. Williams. He is a man whose best efforts, and I may say whose whole life, have been occupied in work for the good of his country. He has done so with credit to himself. The people of Lagos for whom he has done so much ought to be proud of him. I am sure they are, more so from the influential gathering here this morning. He is not the only native of West Africa who has been honoured by His Majesty; but I think there is no one who is more richly deserving of this honour than he.

I understand Mr. Williams is on the point of departure for England in search of health, and I trust he may find it to the fullest extent, and so be fitted long to live and enjoy the distinction that has now fallen to his lot. On behalf of the Bench I extend to Mr. Williams my sincerest congratulations.

Barrister J. E. Shyngle next rose and said:—

May it please Your Honour,

Gentlemen,

It affords me very great pleasure both on behalf of myself and the other members of the Bar to have to congratulate Mr. Williams for the high honour which His Majesty the King has been pleased to confer upon him. It is a very pleasant duty to me in more ways than one. I have known Mr. Williams for upwards of 22 years, during which time we have been practising together. It fills me therefore with pleasure to find that his high attainments have been recognised by the Crown.

Another consideration that gives me pleasure on this occasion is the opportunity that it affords me to say, that notwithstanding Mr. Williams' faults - and who is that man who is faultless - he is the embodiment of a gentleman. Those who have had the privilege of practising with him will attest to this as a distinguishing characteristic of the man. As the leader of this bar, he has filled that position very well and creditably to himself as to deserve the high honour which His Majesty the King has seemed pleased to confer upon him. We members of the Bar ought to be proud of this.

This is the first occasion that a practising native Barrister of this Court has been so preferred. There have been other African Natives who have had this distinction conferred upon them; but no one so far as I am aware in the erstwhile Colony of Lagos, now Nigeria, has been the recipient of such an honour. Mr. Williams is a native well known not only in Nigeria but everywhere. To borrow a phrase from the Speech your Honour has just delivered: Mr. Williams is the best well known native. I think you will all agree with me

gentlemen in this opinion. Much as he is well known I have still something new to say about him. It is something like a brief history of his life.

Christopher Alexander Sapara Williams, son of the late Alexander Sapara Williams and Grand-son of Lejofu Agbogborigun a descendant of the houses of Loro, Ogboni and Owa of Ilesha, born in the early Fifties, was educated at the Sierra Leone Grammar School and came to Lagos in 1871, and in June of that year entered the Government Service under Sir John Glover as Customs Officer and Clerk at Government House.

He left for England in 1875, entered Wesley College Sheffield, and in Michaelmas term 1876 he entered the Inns of Court and was called to the Bar on November 17th 1879 by the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple; he returned to Lagos in August 1880 and was enrolled a Member of the Bar of what was then the Gold Coast Colony in September, 1880. He was appointed Member of the Legislative Council of the Colony of Lagos in September 1901 under the administration of Sir William McGregor. For his services to his father-land he has been asked at various times to take up the Ilesha Chieftaincy in his family right whenever it became vacant by death of the holder thereof; but as the title would necessitate residence at Ilesha he has informed them that he waived his right in favour of other members of the family elected and approved by him, but in December 1913 he yielded to his people's pressure and accepted the title of Lodifi of Idifi which has been conferred by the Owa and Chiefs; the present state of his health delays his installation till his return from England. On his maternal side Mr. Sapara Williams is the descendant of the Timi of Ede and Bamilosin of Owu and of the Ikija tribe (Alakesi); it was through this that the Alake has been desirous of his accepting the title of Bamilosin upon which up to the present he has not yet decided.

You will see therefore that not only is he a great man from the point of view of the Englishman but also from that of the African. Up to this moment we never knew that we have been collaborating with a Chief. He is not only a Chief who had high honour conferred upon him but a man possessed of varied qualities. He is a typical man. You have all known the position he holds whether in the State or in Society. He is a religious enthusiast and all that could be desired. I have known him some 21 years as a leader of the Bar but then practically leading himself.

He had been leading public opinion in this country. In 1901 he accepted the post of a member of the Legislative Council. Prior to that time he was a leader of what is now designated 'the storm centre.' He had taken a very active part in the different Mass meetings held at various times at Tinubu and Palogun Squares over different political questions of the day on which his views were always opposed to those of the administration. To speak figuratively he breathed fire and brimstone. You have only to know him opposing every measure. I was sometime an ardent politician myself but since I got my fingers burnt I had to retire from business. (Laughter)

The recollection is still fresh in my mind how Mr. Williams was got into the Legislative Council by Sir William Macgregor. How at Balogun Square as far back as 1901 there was convened a great and well attended Mass meetings to protest against the Forestry introduced by the then administration: how Mr.

Williams was one of the leaders of the opposition party. In those good days there were no detectives going round Mass meetings, there were no Police to watch the proceedings, no fear of anyone raising a sedition against men in positions of high responsibility. I believe it was late Mr. Gladstone who said that there is no politician of some worth who at one time or another does not change his mind. When Mr. Williams got into the Legislative Council he had to learn the politics of that Chamber.

Mr. Williams is a strong supporter and defender of the Chiefs to which fact their presence here this morning testifies. He has been known not to refuse any command from Government House. I have seen him many times venturing out under a heavy downpour. Not that I am disloyal, for when I advised more caution on his part in the interest of his health the reply characteristic of him is the Governor has sent for me and what can I do but to go. I have spoken so much that I must draw to a close. Now that he is going away for the benefit of his health, I cannot but wish him pleasant time, an improved health, and a safe return to us.

I thank Your Honour for coming here this morning to preside over this function late as the matter was brought before you. Your Honour has done excellently well; and for the successful issue of this gathering you have our congratulations.

The Honourable C. A. Sapara Williams O. M. G. then rose and replied as follows:—

May it please Your Honour,

Mr. Shyngle, Gentlemen,

There are times in a man's life when he feels too overpowered to say much. My learned friend Mr. Shyngle has pictured my life from childhood, so to speak, to present. Words fail me to express my hearty and sincerest appreciation for the compliment you have paid me. I believe I may safely say, and say without fear of contradiction, that my political life has been marked out for me by Providence. I belong to a family of politicians; and in politics I feel I am in my sphere. In politics you feel like being attacked, and you expect even to be attacked. I am glad to hear, and thankful, that you credit me with sincere motives in all my political actions whether you are of my view of thinking or not. I have always fought for the advancement of Lagos, for the general progress of my country with a desire that Lagos, Yoruba land, and Nigeria shall stand second to none in all His Majesty's Dominions in this part of the world. I hope to continue in this spirit seeking the good of my people till I am called to the higher sphere of life.

Touching my career as a Barrister I have always endeavoured to maintain the highest traditions of the bar and uphold its prestige. I hope to continue to enhance the dignity of the profession. It is the most honourable of the professions. The ministry is concerned only with the cure of souls. Medicine, though a noble profession concerned with the alleviation of human ailments, cannot be compared with the Legal profession which lives for the protection of the rights of citizens. The legal practitioner lives for the direction of his people and the advancement of the cause of his country. Some time people may fail to see the import of any legislative measure but with explanation from the Bar the ignorance obtaining on the subject gradually disappears.

Your Honour, I am sorry I cannot say much this morning by following you, and Mr Shyngle, on the different points you have touched upon. I feel it a great pleasure to accept the congratulation you have extended to me. I know the importance of the honour His Majesty has conferred upon me, and it is one I appreciate. It is my desire never to disgrace its colours. I feel the conferment of this honour on me by His Majesty the King is intended not so much to honour me personally, but West Africa, and especially Nigeria to which I belong. And I hope that I will so conduct myself as to justify the position I am asked to fill.

Letters to the Editor.

Abolition of Domestic Slavery and Installation of Mental Slavery.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NIGERIAN CHRONICLE"

Dear Mr. Editor,

The enclosed has fallen into my hands, and I take the liberty of sending it on to you; as I am sure it will interest your readers in Nigeria to know how the wind is blowing with reference to the education of their young and the future of the country. Please excuse haste.

Yours truly,
D. E. F.

London, June 9, 1914.

ENCLOSURE.

S. S. "Mendi"
at sea.
16th April 1914.

Nigeria
No. 366
Sir,

I have recently had under very careful consideration the subject of the revision of the Education Ordinance and the Grant Code Regulations, and these in due course will be submitted to you when I have had time to obtain the views of the officers immediately connected with Education in the Colony and the Southern Provinces whether official or unofficial.

2. In the meantime I shall be glad to know whether you see any objection to enforcing (as I propose to do) Registration and Inspection of all Schools in Nigeria, whether Assisted or not. The

inspection of Unassisted Schools would of course be confined to ascertaining that the method of the school were not such as to produce results dangerous or undesirable for the country. Power would be given to close any school in which such results were produced, but, if you think fit, a right of prior appeal to yourself could be provided.

3. I do not anticipate that it would ever be necessary to proceed to such a step except perhaps in cases where a Mission has founded a school alongside one already-existing in a district for which two schools are not required, with the deliberate intention of nullifying the work of the first-established school but, I think it would serve a useful purpose if it were understood that such power in the last resort existed. It would enable the Government to make suggestions with more chance of being listened to.

4. On the other hand, in a country like Nigeria, I consider that it is eminently desirable that Government should have some general control over Educational Establishment.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient,
humble servant,

(Sgd). F. D. LUGARD.
Governor General.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE.
LEWIS HARCOURT, M. P.
Secretary.

The Financial Crisis at Abeokuta

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NIGERIAN CHRONICLE"

Sir,

When people protested against this extravagant salary of £1,000 which was subsequently increased to £1,600 p.a. under strong protest, and the salary of Alake's Secretary (Mr. Edun) of £300 to £500 p.a., it was argued, that the drunkards contributed the bulk of the Revenue from which these salaries were paid and therefore the people had no right to protest.

The employment of five Europeans in the Service with salaries and allowances about £2,000 per annum, the opening of the Motor Transport Services, the importation of unnecessary Machineries (5 Motor Lorries 3 Steam Rollers at about £800 each) and an army of Drivers only to compete with the unsophisticated

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natives who earn their livelihood by carrying goods and rolling Casks of Palm Oil; the opening and enlarging of the Corn Crushing Machinery at a cost of about £3,000 only to compete with the poor women, who make their living by grinding Corn between stones; receiving a loan of £35,000 from the British Government for Water works, when the digging of wells and improving water springs will do; these and all other extravagances when criticised, the critics were vilified; and the same old story of the drunkard and his love was set up.

From the Alake's own utterance, it would appear, there is a time coming when there will be no more drunkards in Egbaland and every one will be as sober as a Judge. O that will be joyful! How will the deficit of about £24,000 be met, which will occur yearly if the spirit Trade be stopped? Will the Government resort to brigandage? After all the tall talks that Egba Elephant fought with beasts at Ephesus, defeated St. Michael and St George and the dragon to boot, and thrashed Morel in wordy warfare: the shout of victory and the songs of rejoicings of the Egba maidens and the sea of heads that welcomed and preceded the triumphal Car of the conquering hero, emblazoned *veni, vidi, vici*: after all these, must our Chiefs go from door to door with Collection boxes, cards or plates tied round their necks canvassing for fund? During the 12 years service of Mr. Edun, Revenue to the amount of about £240,000 was collected; of this sum no saving was made by the Government against hard times. Do we not deserve mercy?

The only honourable way the Government could adopt to meet up the impending crisis is, to considerably reduce the salary of the Alake and the Government Secretary and all other Officials, be they white or black; close the business of the Motor Transport and Corn Mill Departments and the expenses of coals and Petrol will be no more. Let it sell all the motors and Corn Machinery to any native or European who may be disposed to buy them, place facilities in the way of the buyers to work them. It is better to sell them at a loss than to continue running both business at a loss which has been the result of how they are being worked. A reduction in the staff at the Secretariat, Treasury, Public Works, and Customs is a matter of necessity.

If Mr Edun knows what is to be ashamed, he will not go cap in hand and cringe under the British Commissioner, or the Governor General to help him to coerce the

Egbas to pay Poll Tax in order that he may draw the Kingly salary of £500 p.a. formerly enjoyed by the Oshile; and his lord and master £1600 p.a., besides allowances. I refuse to believe that any true Englishman will be a party to coerce the Egbas, who today are feeling the cruel hand of poverty, to pay Poll Tax in order to provide sinecure for a class of reckless politicians because they happen to be in power, and pay extravagant salary to a King at a bitter cost to his people who are simply swimming in poverty and oppression. It was not the custom of the Egbas to utilise the Tolls for the payment of monthly salaries. The fabulous sum given in this instance to the present Alake, the increment to his salary, evidently went up with the increase on the duty on spirits; therefore when there will be no more drinks extravagant salaries must be curtailed.

Thanking you in advance,

Yours truly,

EKELOJUOTI.

June 22nd 1914.



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