Annual Departmental Reports relating to
African Countries prior to Independence

Annual Departmental Reports relating to
Nigeria and British Cameroons,
1887-1960

Introduction to the microfilm collection
by
David C. Dorward

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Melbourne, Australia

1979
Introduction

The *Annual Departmental Reports relating to Nigeria and British Cameroons* is a complementary collection to the earlier microform collection of Annual Reports of the Governor, Blue Books, and Government Gazettes, entitled *Government Publications relating to Nigeria* (Microform Academic Publishers, 1975). For the purpose of organisation, the departmental collection has been divided under ten headings: Administration, Finance, Judicial and Police, Natural Resources, Social Services, Transport and Public Works, Communications and Post Office Savings, Commerce, Miscellaneous Nigeriana, and finally reports relating to the British Cameroons. Within each section, departmental series have been organised in chronological order, prefaced by selected extraordinary reports and sessional papers of particular relevance, and followed by related sub-collections. Specific bibliographic and historical information related to discrete collections, as well as more complete explanations of the functions and activities of departments where their titles are not self-explanatory, are given in the detailed departmental lists below.

In large measure the complications relating to the organisation of government departments and the publication of their annual reports arises from the complex historical and constitutional evolution of Nigeria. Nigeria was a "mixed dependency", created from the union of the Colony and Protectorate of Lagos with the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria (successor to the Niger Coast and Oil Rivers Protectorates) in 1906 and the subsequent amalgamation with the British Protectorate of Northern Nigeria in 1914 to form the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria. As a result, separate parallel technical departments were often already established in the component polities at the time of amalgamation. Moreover Sir Frederick Lugard, who was responsible for the amalgamation in 1914, was biased in favour of Northern Nigerian institutions, had a mania for details and a congenital inability to delegate authority, preferring to centre decision-making in his own hands. Consequently, despite the political amalgamation of Nigeria, the Northern and Southern Provinces continued to maintain separate Agricultural, Education, Forestry, Land, Police and Prison Services until well into the 1920s when they amalgamated as part of the general policy of centralisation and increased efficiency instituted by Lugard's successor as Governor, Sir Hugh Clifford. While a counter-reaction led to a measure of administrative decentralisation in the late 1920s under Sir Graeme Thomson's governorship and the Southern Provinces were divided into the Eastern and Western Provinces in 1937, thus laying the foundation for the ultimate regional division of Nigeria, the technical departments were not fragmented once more until the 1950s. Under the so-called MacPherson Constitution of 1951, however, a measure of autonomy and local responsibility was delegated to the Regions with a consequent proliferation of regional technical departments and services. In addition, the period following the Second World War witnessed a profusion of new institutions as the colonial government was forced to respond to the mounting aspirations and vocal demands of the Nigerian populace and nationalist leaders and to increasing opposition to colonialism from abroad.

**GROUP I ADMINISTRATION**

*While the Annual Reports of the Governor (reproduced in microfilm as part of the companion series of Government Publications relating to Nigeria, MAP, 1975) were produced for submission to Parliament, the administrative reports listed below were intended primarily for the information of the Governor and for limited distribution within the Nigerian Colonial Service and H.M. Government.*

Reel 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lagos</th>
<th>1899-1905</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District Political Reports</td>
<td>1899-1905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Nigeria</td>
<td>1906-1911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egba District</td>
<td>1906-1911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Province</td>
<td>1906-1911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Province</td>
<td>1906-1911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Province</td>
<td>1906-1907</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reel 2

Nigeria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report of the Administration of Lagos</th>
<th>1927-1938</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Report of the Administration of Lagos</td>
<td>1927-1938</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 1937 the Southern Province was divided into the Eastern and Western Provinces. The following section is preaced by:

Reorganisation of the Southern Provinces (SP46/1937)
Annual Report for the Northern, Western and Eastern Provinces and Colony 1939-1946

During the 1950's, Nigeria underwent a series of political and constitutional changes which were ultimately to lead to independence in 1960. Simultaneously, power and decision-making was increasingly regionalised, for instance the so-called MacPherson Constitution of 1951 made local government a regional responsibility. As a result, the three regions of Nigeria began producing their own Annual Reports and departmental reports, while the last Annual Report of the Governor to Parliament was that submitted for 1955.

Northern Region 1951-1958

Ministry of Internal Affairs
Eastern Region 1959/60
Western Region 1957

Public Services Commission
Federal Government 1954-1960
Eastern Region 1954-1960
Northern Region 1954-1960
Western Region 1956-1960

In addition, there are a number of sub-regional reports relating to administration which were produced at various times, their titles being self-explanatory.

Conference of Residents
Northern Provinces 1926-1934 irregular

Conference of Chiefs
Northern Provinces 1930-1941 irregular

Western Provinces 1937-1945
Western Provinces, new series 1958-1959

Mid-West Advisory Council 1958/9-1959/60

The latter dealt with matters relating to the creation of the Mid-West State from part of what was formerly the Western Region.

Lagos Town Council 1917-1937 irregular

GROUP II FINANCE

Audits, Estimates and other financial reports provide a wealth of quantifiable information and statistics on the allocation of resources by and within the Colonial Government.

Audit of the Accounts
Lagos 1904-1905
Southern Nigeria 1906
Correspondence relating to the cost of the Colonial Audit Department
Nigeria and the Nigerian Railway
Nigeria (excluding Railway)

Reel 12
Eastern Region
Northern Region
Western Region

Nigeria (excluding Railway)

1912/3
1928/9-1936/7
1937/8-1959/60
1952/3-1959/60
1953/4-1958/9

1937/8-1947/8
1948/9-1955

"In anticipation of the establishment in November 1949, by direction of the Governor and with the approval of the Legislative Council of a Board of Management for the Nigerian Government Collieries, the Chief Accountant was authorised to state a case in favour of independence of accounting". (SP 20/1951)

Reel 13
Nigerian Railway, Motor Services and Colliery
Nigerian Railway and Motor Services

Government Collieries
Coal Corporation

1937/8-1947/8
1948/9-1955
1952/3-1959/60
1953/4-1958/9

1949/50
1950/1-1954/5

"Note in Public Record Office volume for 1913: "Governor-General unable to supply a copy of this report.""

Reel 14
Financial/Accountant General
Southern Nigeria
Nigeria

1906-1912
1914-1918

1919-1926/7
1927/8-1934/5
1935/6-1944/5
1945/6-1949/50
1950/1-1955/6
1956/7-1959/60

Reel 15
Nigeria

Reel 16
Nigeria

Reel 17
Nigeria

Reel 18
Nigeria

Reel 19
Nigeria

Reel 20
Nigeria

Reel 21
Eastern Region
Regional Treasurer
Accountant-General
Public Accounts Committee

1952/3
1953/4-1959/60
1952/3-1959

Reel 22
Northern Region
Regional Treasurer
Accountant-General
Joint Standing Committee

1952/3
1953/4-1959/60
1955-1956

Reel 23
Western Region
Regional Treasurer
Accountant-General
Public Accounts Committee
Joint Standing Committee

1952/3-1953/4
1954/5-1959/60
1952/3-1956/7
1954/5-1958

Reel 24
Estimates
Ibadan Province
Nigeria (excluding Railway)

1908
1936/7-1940/1
1946/7-1953/4

Reel 25
Nigeria (excluding Railway)

1954/5-1959/60

Reel 26
Nigeria (excluding Railway)
Reel 27  Secretary of State’s Despatch approving the Estimates  1934/5-1929/30  
Railway  1936/7-1948/9

Reel 28  Railway  1949/50-1955/6

Reel 29  Eastern Region (including memo on Estimates)  1953/5-1959/60  
Supplementary  1958

Reel 30  Northern Region  1952/3-1953/4

Reel 31  Northern Region  1954/5-1955/6

Reel 32  Northern Region  1956/7

Reel 33  Northern Region  1957/8

Reel 34  Northern Region  1958/9

Reel 35  Northern Region  
Memo on Estimates  1952/3-1953/4

Reel 36  Western Region (including memo on Estimates)  1954/5-1959/60

In addition to central and regional government estimates, local Native Authority administrations were required to submit annual estimates of revenue and expenditure.

Reel 37  Native Authority Estimates  
Northern Provinces  1931/2-1933/4

Reel 38  Northern Provinces  1934/5-1937/8

Reel 39  Northern Provinces  1938/9-1943/4

Reel 40  Northern Provinces  1944/5-1945/6

Reel 41  Northern Provinces  1948/9-1949/50

Reel 42  Northern Provinces  1950/1-1951/2

Reel 43  Northern Provinces  1952/3-1953/4

Reel 44  Northern Provinces/Northern Region  1954/5-1955/6

Reel 45  Northern Region  1955/6-1956/7

Reel 46  Northern Region  1957/8

Reel 47  Northern Region  1958/9

Reel 48  Northern Region  1959/60

Reel 49  Northern Region  1959/60 cont.

Owing to the shortage of paper, Northern Region Native Authority Estimates for the years 1941/2-1942/3 and 1946/7-1947/8 were not printed.

Memo on Estimates  1948/9-1959/60

Native Administrations Financial Statements  
Northern and Southern Provinces  1929/30-1936/7

Reel 50  Southern Provinces  1931/2-1936/7
In 1955 The Eastern Regional Government passed the Local Government Law of 1955 which brought them under the supervision and control of the Regional Minister of Internal Affairs, a measure designed to correct the defects, including the lack of adequate financial supervision, provided in the earlier Local Government Ordinance of 1950.

Western Provinces 1939/40

Inland Revenue

Northern Nigeria, Taxation of the Natives (Col. Misc. No. 40) Feb1907
Lagos Tax Office 1937/8-1938/9, 1953-1957/8
Eastern Region 1956/7-1959/60
Western Region 1957/8

Accounts of quasi-commercial undertakings operated by Government by means of bank current accounts which were opened with grants of working capital 1943-1957 irregular

GROUP III JUDICIAL AND POLICE

The maintenance of "law and order" was regarded by the colonial government of Nigeria to be one of its principal functions. See also Armed Forces in Group IX Miscellaneous.

Police

Lagos 1899-1900/1

The report for 1900/1 includes an appendix "Return of charges for the year 1900, Police Magistrate's Court and Supreme Court".

Lagos 1904-1905
Southern Nigeria 1906-1913
Northern and Southern Provinces 1914-1929

The report for 1923 includes an appendix "Policing of Lagos" SP3/1923.

On 1st April 1930, the Police Forces of the Northern and Southern Provinces were amalgamated to form an integrated Nigerian Police Force.

Nigeria 1930-1938
In 1938 the Prison Services of the Northern and Southern Provinces were amalgamated to form the Nigerian Prison Department.

The report for 1956/7 includes a supplement "Native Authority Prisons – Northern Region".

GROUP IV NATURAL RESOURCES

"...there should be rendered for publication in the Government Gazette, quarterly, to the Colonial Secretary, a brief account of work done, embodying acknowledgements of receipts into and issues from the station. " Memorandum by Governor Moloney, reprinted in Kew Bulletin, June 1888, p.151.

On the directive of the Colonial Office, the Forestry Department assumed responsibility for the Botanical and Agricultural Department in the interest of economy. (Colonial Office to Governor MacGregor, 29 December, 1900, CO 879/65/635/208.)

In addition to the Agricultural Department, 1911 (SP 38/1912), see also Supplement to Agricultural Department, 1911 (SP 44/1912).
The Agricultural Departments of the Northern and Southern Provinces were merged to form a single Nigerian Agricultural Department in June 1921. At the same time a change was approved whereby much of the detail of the experimental work of the department and other matters of a similar nature were to be published in an Annual Bulletin.

With the development of regional autonomy in the 1950s came a devolution of the technical departments to the regions, with the Central Agricultural Department being reformed in 1954 as an Agricultural Research Department.

The first Forestry Officer, Cyril Puntch, was appointed in 1897, however African opposition forced the Government to withdraw the first Forestry Bill. (Governor McCallum to Colonial Office, 2 December, 1897, in C.W. Newbury, British Policy Toward West Africa, vol. II, Oxford, 1971, 544-6. See also, F.E.R. Leigh and T.B. Dawodu, Report on Nigerian Forests, 28 July 1897, Ibid., 541-2.) The Lagos Forestry Department was not formed until 1900.
A Forestry Investigation Section of the Department was established in 1913 but was closed almost immediately thereafter, with the outbreak of the First World War. However, from time to time, the department published a Research Bulletin similar to that published by the Agricultural Department. See also the departmental development plan.

Forestry Research Bulletin 1928, 1936

**Forest Administration Plan, 1946-1955, see under A Ten Year Plan of Development for Nigeria, 1946, Reel 100.**

Like the Agricultural Department, the Forestry Department and forest management were regionalised in 1951, the rump Federal establishment becoming a research body.

Forest Research 1954/5-1959/60

Reel 76 Eastern Region 1951/3-1959/60
Northern Region 1952/3-1959/60
Western Region 1951/2-1959/60

Reel 77 Fisheries

Though fishing is an important indigenous occupation in many areas of Nigeria and dried fish an important source of protein, it was not an export industry and received only belated attention from the colonial government.

Development Branch, Fisheries 1945
Federal Fisheries Service 1955/6-1956/7
Eastern Region 1956/7-1958/9

Reel 78 Veterinary

* Nigeria has a large pastoralist population, cattle tax or jalingi was an important source of revenue in many areas, and the internal trade in cattle was a considerable commercial significance.

Southern Nigeria 1907-1908/9
Northern Provinces 1920-1930
Nigeria 1931-1940

Reel 79 Nigeria 1941-1952/3

* Until 1930, the Veterinary Department confined its attentions to the Northern Provinces, the major cattle area. However in 1931 the department widened its perspective to the country as a whole. With regionalisation in the early 1950s the department was once more divided, with the Federal Veterinary Department becoming a research body.

Department of Veterinary Research 1954/5-1959/60
Eastern Region 1954/5-1959/60
Northern Region 1952/3-1959/60
Western Region 1952/3-1955/6

Reel 80 Land and Survey (see also Mineral/Geological Survey section)

Lagos 1900/1-1905
Southern Nigeria
Land and Survey 1906
Land Office 1907
Land 1909-1913
Southern Provinces, Land 1914-1926
Northern Provinces, Land 1917-1926

* Publication of the Annual Reports of the Land Departments was suspended in 1927 and was not revived until 1935, when the Land Department was amalgamated with the Survey Department and a joint report was issued.
(See Land and Survey Department under the section on Survey Department, Annual Reports.) Then, in 1947, the Land Department was reconstituted as a separate body, while during the 1950s separate Land Departments were established under the Eastern and Western Regional governments. For the Northern Region, see Land and Survey Department under the section on Survey Department. Finally, during the late 1940s and early 1950s a series of reports on land tenure were published.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria, Land</td>
<td>1948/9-1956/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Region, Land</td>
<td>1956/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Region, Land</td>
<td>1952/3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reports on Land Tenure

- Benin Province: 1948
- Kano Province: 1949
- Niger Province: 1949
- Plateau Province: 1949
- Zaria Province: 1949
- Ondo Province: 1952
- Ijebu Province: 1956

Reel 81 Survey

- Southern Nigeria: 1907-1910/11
- Nigeria Survey: 1914-1934
- Land and Survey: 1935-1938, 1944/5, 1946/7

Reel 82 Survey

- Northern Region: 1947/8-1951/2, 1958/9
- Western Region: 1952/3-1954/5

Mineral/Geological Survey

In 1903, (Sir) Wyndham R. Dunstan, Chemist and Director of the Imperial Institute (1903-1924), put forward a scheme for a mineral survey of Northern and Southern Nigeria. (Sir Ralph Moor to Colonial Office, 30 June 1903, CO 879/879/654.) The reports of the Imperial Institute were subsequently published as a series of Command Papers.

- Southern Nigeria Report on the Results of the Mineral Survey: 1906/7-1913

Though various publications relating to the Geological Survey of Nigeria were published from time to time thereafter, it was not until 1930 that the Geological Survey Department was established as a permanent body and commenced producing regular Annual Reports.

Reel 83 Nigeria Geological Survey: 1930-1959/60


- Oil Palm Research Station: 1946/7

GROUP V SOCIAL SERVICES

Reel 88 Education

In 1889 the Governor of Lagos sponsored a competitive exhibition of school work, the results of which were
published in the Government Gazette (see Government Publications relating to Nigeria, MAP, 1975), however from the end of the century it became the practice to publish the results as a separate report.

Competitive Exhibition of School Work
Lagos 1899-1905
Southern Nigeria 1906-1912

By the end of the century the relationship between the colonial government and education bodies was becoming more formalised and their activities subject to official inspection. See also the Special Report by Henry Carr.

Henry Carr: Special Report on the Schools of Southern Nigeria 1900
Report on Schools
Lagos 1899, 1902
Southern Nigeria (Western Province) 1905/6, 1908
Education Department
Southern Nigeria 1906-1914
Southern Provinces 1915-1928
Northern Provinces 1913-1928

In 1929 the Education Departments of the Northern and Southern Provinces were amalgamated and the reports for the two separate departments for the year 1929 were issued under a single cover. In the 1950s control over education was regionalised, though the Federal Government continued to publish an overall summary and survey of education in Nigeria. In addition to the Annual Reports of the Department of Education a number of important official statements of education policy which were published as Sessional Papers in the 1940s are included.

Reel 89 Ten Year Educational Plan 1944
Nigeria
Education 1929-1952/3

Reel 90 Education Summary 1955-1957
Education Triennial Survey 1955-1957
Education 1958-1960
Digest of Statistics 1956-1960
Eastern Region 1956-1960
Northern Region 1951/2-1954/5

The last Annual Report of the Education Department of the Northern Region was published for 1954/5. For the next two years an Annual Summary was produced, "… in accordance with the recommendations of the Secretary of State for the Colonies…". (Annual Summary, 1955/6).

Annual Summary 1955/6
Western Region 1953/4-1958/9
Annual Abstract of Education Statistics 1953-1960

Reel 91 Medical and Sanitary

The Annual Reports of the Medical and Sanitary Department were often voluminous documents with numerous appendices, including the annual reports of subsidiary divisions such as the Hospital Laboratory Service, the Tsetse Investigation Service, the X-ray Department, the Government Dentist, etc., as well as interesting and unusual medical case histories.

See in addition the Annual Reports of the Chemical Laboratory, Government Analyst, the Medical Research Institute, the Registration of Births and Deaths, the Municipal Board of Health, Lagos, and those relating to Leprosy.

Lagos 1899-1905
Special report on district around Iwo 1905
Southern Nigeria 1905
Southern Nigeria – Eastern, Western and Central Provinces 1906
Reports for the Eastern, Western and Central Provinces were thereafter incorporated as appendices to the Southern Nigeria Medical and Sanitary Reports.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southern Nigeria</td>
<td>1908-1913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Nigeria</td>
<td>1907-1913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Provinces</td>
<td>1914-1918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Provinces</td>
<td>1914-1918</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During the period 1919 to 1921, the Medical and Sanitary Services of the Northern and Southern Provinces, "...to all intents and purposes separate services...", were reorganised to form an integrated department. The initial report covers the periods 1919 to 1921. Thereafter annual reports were issued. In 1930 the service was renamed the Medical and Health Department, subsequently altered to the Medical and Health Service in 1932 and finally abbreviated to the Medical Service in 1935.

During the 1950s Regional Medical Services were established, while the responsibilities of the Central Medical Service were confined to the Federal Territory of Lagos.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>1919/21-1927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>1928-1935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>1936-1953/4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Territory</td>
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<td>Eastern Region</td>
<td>1957-1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Region</td>
<td>1952-1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Region</td>
<td>1952/3-1959</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Registration of Births and Deaths

The Lagos Blue Books (see Government Publications relating to Nigeria, MAP, 1975) included entries under "Population Statistics, Marriage, Birth and Deaths", however a General Abstract of Registration subsequently came to be published separately under the General Registration Ordinance No. 9 of 1888. Such information was confined to a very limited section of the population, though official registration of birth and death came to have increasing importance with the growing application of English Common Law, particularly in the field of personal law.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lagos</td>
<td>1893-1900/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Nigeria</td>
<td>1906-1907</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chemical Laboratory/Government Analyst

The Chemical Department/Government Analyst served as both a branch of the Medical Service and a police forensic section. While its reports were frequently published as appendices to the Annual Reports of the Medical and Sanitary Department, at others it was published separately.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lagos</td>
<td>1900/1-1904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Nigeria</td>
<td>1906, 1913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>1927-1958/9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Medical Research Institute

The establishment of the Medical Research Institute was the subject of considerable correspondence, published as Sessional Papers of the Lagos Legislative Council. On 1 April 1930 it was amalgamated with the Clinical Laboratories, the Dietetic Research Station and the Research Laboratory as one branch of the Medical Department, namely the Laboratory Service. Thereafter reports on the service were incorporated in those of the Medical and Health Service. See also Medical and Sanitary Report, Southern Nigeria, 1917 for the report of the Medical Research Institute.
Correspondence re establishment of Medical Research Institute 1907-1910
Southern Nigeria 1909-1911
Nigeria 1912-1929

Leprosy

With the exception of one year, 1906, the report on the Yaba Leper Asylum was included in that of the Medical and Sanitary Department. With the development of regional self-government, the Eastern Region established a special Leprosy Research Unit.

Southern Nigeria: Yaba Leper Asylum 1906
Eastern Region: Leprosy Research Unit, Uzuakoli 1957-1960

Municipal Board of Health, Lagos 1909-1916

The Board was established as a result of the outbreak of Plague in West Africa in 1908.

Reel 99 Social Welfare

The Social Welfare Departments were a product of the process of decolonisation and government response to growing public pressure.

Nigeria 1947, 1949, 1954/5-1959/60
Eastern Region
Social Welfare 1956/7-1957/8
Community Development 1956/7-1957/8

Northern Region
Social Welfare 1953-1959/60
Library Division 1959-1960/1

Western Region
Social Welfare 1953/4-1957/8
Housing Corporation 1958/9-1959/60

Public Relations/Information Service

The establishment of the department by the colonial government was a response to increasing opposition to colonialism both within Africa and abroad, its propaganda reflecting the various shifts in official policy.

Nigeria: Public Relations Department 1946-1952/4

Reel 100 Development Boards and Corporations

The Lagos Executive Development Board was created in 1928 for the primary purpose of dealing with the redevelopment of a part of Lagos which, because of the overcrowded and unsanitary conditions, had been the occasion of Bubonic Plague. The reports thus deal with much of the 'slum clearance' in Lagos during the 1930s.

Lagos Executive Development Board 1929-1937/8

With the end of the Second World War came a new emphasis on public relations and "development". On 14 May 1949 a Colonial Development Board was created under provisions of the Regional Development Ordinance (No. 14 of 1949) to perform the functions previously carried out in the Colony by the Local Development Board.

Report of the Lagos Town Planning Commission 1946
Nigeria Local Development Board 1947-1948
Colony Development Board 1949/50-1955/6
Lagos Executive Development Board 1955/6-1959/60

The reports on the General Progress of Development and Welfare Schemes dealt not only with schemes financed wholly or in part from the Colonial Development and Welfare Grants or loans but with the progress of the whole Development Programme; and the basis of the reports was therefore the Ten Year Plan of
Development and Welfare for Nigeria (SP 24 /1945). The section is prefaced by:

A Ten Year Plan of Development and Welfare for Nigeria 1945
A Revised Plan of Development and Welfare for Nigeria 1951

Reel 101  Nigeria
General Progress of Development and Welfare Schemes 1945/6-1952/3
Federal Loans Board 1956/7-1959/60

Reel 102  Eastern Region
Development Board 1949/50-1953/4
Production Development Board 1949/50-1953/4
Development Corporation 1955/6-1959/60

Northern Region
Development Board 1949/50-1955
Production Development Board 1950/1-1955
Development Corporation 1956-1959/60

Reel 103  Western Region
Development Board 1949/50-1954/5
Finance Corporation 1955/6-1959/60
Production Development Board 1949/50-1958/9
Development Corporation 1959/60

Reel 104  Labour

Established as part of the wartime mobilisation of Nigerian manpower and its deployment to the war effort.

Nigeria
Labour 1940-1959/60

Reel 105  Department of Labour Quarterly Review
Eastern Region 1947-1960
1956/7-1957/8

GROUP VI TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Reel 106  Public Works
Lagos
Engineering Department 1900/1-1904
Public Works 1905
Southern Nigeria
Public Works 1906-1911

Though a joint report of the Public Works Departments of the Northern and Southern Provinces was published for both 1913 and 1914, the departments were not amalgamated until 1920. Publication of the annual reports was suspended during the Second World War, however a typescript summary of departmental activities is available for the periods 1940-1943 and 1943/44.

Northern and Southern Provinces 1913-1919
Nigeria 1920/1-1938

Reel 107  Nigeria 1940-1959/60

Reel 108  Eastern Region 1956/7
Northern Region 1953/4-1959/60

Electricity
Nigeria
Electrical Branch, Public Works Department 1933-1936/7,
1945/6-1946/7

Publication of the Annual Reports of the Electricity Branch was suspended during the Second World War owing
The Nigerian Harbour Department was formed in 1927, "...evolving out of personnel and organisation of the temporary Harbour Works Department...".

Harbour

Port Engineering

Marine

Lagos

Government Vessels

Marine

Southern Nigeria

Nigeria

Nigeria

Reel 109 Harbour

Lagos

Correspondence re Lagos Harbour Works

Reports on Lagos Harbour Works

Nigeria

The Department became operational on 1st April 1957, its duties being to: (a) collect, compile and study hydrological data, production of river maps, etc., (b) maintain and improve river channels, ports and approaches, (c) control Inland Water Navigation, light buoyage, wrecks, and Government dockyards, (d) operate and maintain Government craft and ferries, and (e) survey all craft and examinations under the Shipping and Navigation Ordinance. This section is prefaced by:

Statement of Policy.... for the establishment of an Inland Waterways Department

Inland Waterways

Reel 110 Nigeria

Reel 111 Ports Authority

Inland Waterways

Reel 112 Road Transport

A Road Department, headed by a Supervisor of Roads, lasted for six years, from 1906 to 1911, at the end of which time it was absorbed by the Public Works Department, Nigeria.

Southern Nigeria

Road Construction

Motor Transport Service, Ibadan-Oyo

Nigeria

A Director of Transport was appointed on 1st April 1936, "...with the object of co-ordinating the development and directive policy of all forms of transport in Nigeria...".

Report of Director of Transport

During the 1950s the Statistics Department produced the following annual series:

Motor Vehicle Statistics

Reel 113 Railway and Collieries

By far the largest technical department, the Railway Department was rivalled only by the administrative service
in size of personnel, while its annual budget was deemed sufficient to warrant a separate audit from that of the general colonial budget. Its construction was a major undertaking (see, C. W. Newbury, British Policy Toward West Africa, vol. II, Oxford, 1971).

The Udi coal mines were so directly related to the Railway as to be regarded as an integral institution, even when they were administered separately.

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<tr>
<th>Reel</th>
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<td>1925/6-1931/2</td>
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GROUP VII COMMUNICATIONS AND POST OFFICE SAVINGS

"In accordance with the provisions of Ordinance No. XXV of 1907, the Treasury Savings Bank was on the 1st January 1908 transferred to the Postal Department and from that date Savings Bank business which had hitherto been confined to the Lagos Territory only, was transacted at the Post Offices at Lagos, Badagry, Ibadan, Ijebu Ode, Epe, Forcados, Warri, Benin City, Sapele, Onitsha, Calabar, Opobo, Bonny, Brass and Degema." (Report on Lagos Savings Bank for the year ending 31 December 1907. Together with a Memorandum by the Postmaster General on the Transfer of the Treasury Savings Bank to the Postal Department on 1 January 1908.)

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<td>Lagos Telegraph Department</td>
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<td>Southern Nigeria Telegraph Department</td>
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<td>Postal Department</td>
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<td>Post Office Savings</td>
<td>Lagos</td>
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<td>Southern Nigeria</td>
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<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>1914-1915, 1936/7-1959/60</td>
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Reel 122  Posts and Telegraphs and Post Office Savings Bank
   Southern Nigeria  1912-1913
   Nigeria  1914-1935

   Posts and Telegraphs
   Nigeria  1936-1959/60

Reel 123  Printing
   Southern Nigeria  1907-1912
   Nigeria  1917-1939
   Western Region  1957/8-1959/60

GROUP VIII COMMERCE

Reel 124  Customs and Trade
   Lagos
      Customs  1899-1904
      Trade  1905
      Trade, Western District  1903

   Southern Nigeria
      Customs  1909-1913
      Trade  1906-1910
      Trade Statistical Abstract  1911-1913

   Nigeria
      Trade Statistical Abstract  1914-1915

Reel 125  Trade Statistical Abstract  1916-1920
Reel 126  Customs  1921-1924
Reel 127  Customs  1925-1928
Reel 128  Customs  1929-1930
Reel 129  Trade  1931-1934
Reel 130  Trade  1935-1939
Reel 131  Trade  1940-1947
Reel 132  Trade  1948-1954
Reel 133  Trade
      Eastern Region  1955-1960
      Trade  1957/8

Reel 134  Nigeria
      Customs and Excise  1952/3-1953/4,
                         1958/9-1959/60

Reel 135  Statistics

   The Department of Statistics was established in 1949 to take over the reporting function of the Customs Department, issuing the Trade Report formerly published by the latter. Its annual report, a brief administrative statement, began with a thirteen page mimeographed leaflet covering the period from 1947 to 1951. It also published a Quarterly Digest of Statistics.

   Nigeria
      Statistics Department  1947-51-1957/8
      Digest of Statistics  1951-1956

Reel 136  Digest of Statistics  1957-1960
Reel 137  Government Coastal Agency

"In order to handle the stores imported through Apapa/Lagos by the departments of the Federal and Regional Governments of Nigeria, Native Authorities and certain quasi-government bodies, the Coastal Agency was inaugurated on the 1st October 1954. At that date Government stores became liable to Customs duty and the Coastal Agency undertook the work of preparing Customs entries, the payment of duties where necessary, the clearance of stores from the ports and their transport by road and railway to destination, the making of claims for damage and short landing, the clearance of air freight from Lagos airport, the outward shipment of goods sent abroad for repair or other purposes, the intermediate despatch of stores between the parts of Nigeria...." (Report of Government Coastal Agency, 1954-1956).

Nigeria  1954-56-1959/60

Reel 138  Co-operative Societies

The section is prefaced by:

Report on the Introduction of Co-operative Societies into
Nigeria  1934
Nigeria
Progress of Co-operation  1935/7-1946/7
Registrar of Co-operative Societies  1947/8-1959/60
Eastern Region
Co-operative Department  1951/3-1956/7
Northern Region
Co-operative Department  1951/2-1957/8
Western Region
Co-operative Department  1951/2-1954-7

Reel 139  Marketing Boards

"During the war, the West African Produce Control Board in the United Kingdom became the responsible authority for the purchase and shipment of the main Nigerian export crops. The war-time arrangement lapsed when the Nigerian Produce Marketing Boards were established (the Cocoa Marketing Board in 1947, the Groundnut, Oil Palm Produce and Cotton Marketing Board in 1949). These new Nigerian authorities took over the assets of the West African Produce Control Board and, under their respective Ordinances, assumed exclusive responsibility for the marketing of the major Nigerian export crops. It was recognised that the operation of the marketing scheme of the four Boards would constitute a heavy responsibility and it early became evident that a special permanent organisation would be necessary to carry out the day to day work of the Boards. The Government of the day reached the conclusion that the best arrangement would be to create a new department especially concerned with marketing and exports to implement the policy of the Boards, to deal with marketing problems and to be a repository of information and expert advice on Nigerian export produce." (Nigeria, House of Representatives, Statement on the Activities of the Department of Marketing and Export, SP 6/1953.) Section prefaced by same:

Statement on the Activities of the Department of Marketing and Export  1953
Nigeria
Marketing and Export  1948/9-1958/9
Cocoa Marketing Board  1947/8-1953/4
Cotton Marketing Board  1949/50-1953/4

Reel 140  Groundnut Marketing Board
Oil Palm Produce Marketing Board  1949/50-1953/4
Central Marketing Board  1949-1954
1955-1958

The Central Marketing Board was established in 1955, taking over the functions of the Cotton Marketing Board, the Oil Palm Produce Marketing Board and the Cocoa Marketing Board.

Reel 141  Eastern Regional Marketing Board
Northern Regional Marketing Board  1954/5-1960
1954/5-1959/60

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"The decision to set up a Department of Commerce and Industries was announced for the Ten Year Plan of Development and Welfare in Nigeria, 1946 (SP 24/1945). The Department was to have two major sections, one for development and improvement of products for export and the other connected with domestic trade and the development of local industries. For some two and a half years following its inception in 1946 the Department continued to carry out responsibilities for export produce but toward the end of 1948 the section dealing with that side of the activities was transferred to form the nucleus of the new Department of Marketing and Export. At about the same time the Department of Commerce and Industries took over the work of the Supply Branch of the Nigerian Secretariat". (Nigeria, House of Representatives, Statement on the Activities of the Department of Commerce and Industries (SP 7/1953).

The initial report, dated 1946/7, only covers 1946, while the second covers the period 1 January 1947 to 31 March 1948. Moreover the report for 1949/50 is mistitled the 5th Annual Report and erroneously refers to the previous report as the Fourth Annual Report, whereas the report for 1947/1948 is the Third Annual Report and is so labelled.

The energies of the Mines Department were focused almost exclusively on the expatriate controlled tin mines of the Jos Plateau in Northern Nigeria. For information relating to the Udi coal mines, see under Railway in Group VI, Transport and Public Works.

GROUP IX MISCELLANEOUS

The Southern Nigeria Volunteer Force composed of "educated Africans" was abolished by the Governor-General, Sir Frederick Lugard, in 1913. (Lugard to Colonial Office, 31 December 1913, CO 583 6/44563.)
GROUP X BRITISH CAMEROONS

After the Anglo-French conquest of the German Kamerun during the First World War, the territory was re-partitioned by the colonial conquerors with the bulk of the former German colony going to France. The British sector consisted of two strips along the eastern Nigerian border, the northern section being administered more or less as part of the Northern Provinces of Nigeria, while the Southern Cameroons was governed as a quasi-autonomous Province attached to the Southern, subsequently the Eastern, Provinces of Nigeria.

The wartime re-partition of the Cameroons (Kamerun) was confirmed by the Paris Peace Treaties, though the conquered territories were declared 'Mandates' of the League of Nations (after the Second World War, the United Nations). This had little practical effect in terms of day-to-day administration, the supposed supervisory body being generally preoccupied with more pressing problems elsewhere. If anything, the Mandate’s quasi-autonomous status combined with its peripheral geographical location tended to relegate it to a position of benign neglect until the mid-1950s when, as a part of the constitutional changes resulting in the devolution of power and decision-making to the regions, the Southern Cameroons acquired a measure of local self-government and the British belatedly began to promote a policy of 'development'. Under the provision of its mandate, H.M. Government was required to present an annual report for the League of Nations (later the United Nations). Informal and content the Annual Report for the Cameroons resembled the Governor's Annual Report for Nigeria and was presented under the signature of the Governor of Nigeria.
| Reel 165 | Reports on the British Sphere of the Cameroons | 1947-1949 |
| Reel 166 | Reports on the British Sphere of the Cameroons | 1950-1953 |
| Reel 167 | Reports on the British Sphere of the Cameroons | 1954-1957 |
| Reel 168 | Reports on the British Sphere of the Cameroons | 1958-1959 |
|          | Annual Report on Cameroon Province             | 1923      |
|          | Report of Accountant-General                   | 1956/7-1959/60 |
|          | Report of the Principal Auditor on the Accounts | 1954/5-1959/60 |
|          | Estimates                                      | 1955/6-1959/60 |
| Reel 170 | Agriculture                                   | 1954/5-1959 |
|          | Policy for Veterinary Services, SP1/1956       | 1956      |
| Reel 171 | Cameroons Development Corporation             | 1947-1960 |
| Reel 172 | Co-operative Department                       | 1954-6-1958/9 |
|          | Marketing Board                               | 1955-1960/61 |
| Reel 173 | Southern Cameroons Gazette                    | Oct 1954-Dec 1957 |
| Reel 174 | Southern Cameroons Gazette                    | Dec 1957-June 1960 |
| Reel 175 | Southern Cameroons Gazette                    | July 1960-Sept 1961 |