

Editor, Proprietor,  
"The Yoruba News"  
Ejorunpa, Lagos, Nigeria

# THE YORUBA NEWS.

FOR GOD, THE KING AND THE PEOPLE.

VOL. XI. No. 1. New Series.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1936.

FEBRUARY 25, 1936.

PRICE ONE POUND.

## CROP STATEMENT.

1st FEBRUARY, 1936.

### SOUTHERN PROVINCES.

**COCOA.** Although the main season started late there were heavy sales in December, up to 2nd December 1935 the total main crop was graded exceeded that of the corresponding part of the previous season by nearly 7000 tons. Large sales have taken place during January, but final figures for these are not yet available. The total crop is probably about the same as last year.

**COTTON.** The weather has continued to be favourable for the cotton crop. The opening date for cotton markets is 1st February 1936.

### NORTHERN PROVINCES.

**COTTON.** Since the writing of the last news it has become clear that the late rains were exceedingly variable in the different parts of the cotton belt. In Northern Katsina they were nearly normal and in much of the Western part of Sokoto, a heavy shower was received very late, but in most of Zaria Province and Southern Katsina the rains ceased abnormally early.

The yield per acre in the various districts varies similarly but the area of country in which the late rainfall was short is greater than was believed when the last crop notes were written, and it is therefore not now anticipated that the season's crop will exceed 60,000 bales.

**GROUNDNUTS.** The crop is extremely disappointing. Large areas were down and grew well, so that, until the crop was harvested, it appeared that the yield per acre would be normal. The number of shells produced was normal, but when harvesting began a quite extraordinarily large number of them were found to be entirely empty. At the farms of the Agricultural Department, in various districts, the reduction from this cause varies from twenty five per cent to over forty per cent. No occurrence of empty nuts on such a scale in all districts has been recorded previously. The cause of the occurrence cannot be stated with certainty, but it is presumably due to early cessation of the rains.

By request, we re-insert the following article which appeared in our issue of June, 6-20, 1935.

## CHRISTIAN OGBONI

By MYRANCE.

IT IS pleasing to learn through the columns of the Nigerian Daily Times that the moribund Christian Ogboni Lodge in Lagos Colony is being resuscitated at Iaga. This is highly commendable.

The movement had suffered a check through the ignorance of the educated Africans in our land whose over-credulous attitude to the dictums of Western civilization had led them to brand Ogboni fraternity, through misrepresentation, as a wicked, dangerous and diabolical society. Such was the case on the occasion of the anniversary celebration of the Christian Ogbonis at Lagos some years ago, when their mystical acclamation "E-é-é-Pá" was seized upon as an abomination and the movement itself condemned wholesale. Yes, "ignorance is the mother of vice." But the real meaning of the word is an invocation of the Deity—the cry of a child seeking the father's aid.

"E-é-é-á" or "E-é-é-Pá" is from "Yé é"—a cry of the distressed, calling for aid and "Pá" or "Pá"—Father. It is the contracted form of the word "Yé é-tá a" which means Help! O father! "E-é-é-á" is a corruption of the Hebrew word "Abba" which means Father, and Baba is the Yoruba language. This may not appear to be far-fetched, when it is clearly proved that many Hebrew words had been discovered in common use among the Yoruba people. An instance is the Yoruba word "Bere" and the Hebrew "Bereith" both of which signify to "Begin" or else "Beginning" and many others.

In the olden time the utterance of this word is always immediately followed by the voice of the "Father" from the clouds of heaven. Through unbelief and as men wander farther and farther from the truth, which is always easy the case with unwritten rituals and traditions the ancient mystic word was no more effective, its original meaning and power having been lost to the votaries and worshippers alike, it was found neces-

sary to devise something to replace the missing "voice" which had ceased to follow the cry "E-é-é-á" and the god Oro was invented to fill the gap. So that, instead of the ancient unaltered word "E-é-é-á" the name of this newly invented god—"Oro" was always added and it became "E-é-é-á" or "E-é-é-Pá Oro-o-o. Háha o!" and later "E-é-é-Pá-Oro!" this is always promptly followed by the frightful "voice" of Oro.

The newly formed acclamation was finally corrupted to "E-é-é-Pápa" which is a direct call for "Pápa" to intervene. Now, "Pápa, Oro's Knife or Messenger, is the flat shuttle-like piece of wood, ivory or metal with a long string which, when rapidly twisted round and round, produces the terrible sound as if from the clouds, seemingly saying—

"Ná ná a, ná ná a, ná ná a, ná ná a  
Kí o mo a, ná ná a, ná ná a, ná ná a  
[ná ná, ná ná a  
Má ní! ná ní! ná ní!

To the uninitiated and the great mass of the people, the voice of Oro roaring from the clouds was, in those days regarded a god, if not better, substitute for this purpose.

Yet, in spite of these makeshifts and deceptions the real Ogbonis had preserved the ancient words unchanged from time immemorial in their *N-á-á* where another language, totally different from the vernacular is taught and spoken by initiates.

Yes, "There are more wonders in heaven and on earth than are dreams of in our (educated Africa's) philosophy"

Wishing the Christian Ogbonis all success.

## RAPID PROGRESS OF BRITISH CLOCK MANUFACTURERS.

The Clock making industry presents an admirable example of how the British manufacturer can help himself when he has a reasonable chance of succeeding.

Desperate efforts have been made by foreign manufacturers to retain their hold of the market they have had to themselves for at least three generations. Until last year British makers never at all attempted to compete with imported clocks in the medium and low price ranges. With the benefits of protection and the sterling

To be continued.

**THE YORUBA NEWS.**

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 a work of his own.  
 The responsibility for statements are not  
 necessarily assumed by the Editor.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY, 22, 1932.

**The Passing of  
 KING GEORGE V.**

It is with deepest regret that we  
 chronicle the hour end of His Late  
 Majesty King GEORGE THE FIFTH.  
 His end event was a shock to the  
 community as the news of His Late  
 Majesty's last indisposition through  
 a cold was fully heard would soon pass  
 off as usual, but to the regret of  
 all, the illness developed so quickly  
 that the end came only a few days  
 after the third anniversary.

The results of the news on Tuesday  
 the 21st Jan. saw the signal for  
 mourning to be put on public and pri-  
 vate offices, shops, and business places  
 of European, Japanese and African  
 peoples and Peoples in the town.  
 All schools were closed for the day  
 and the children returned quietly to  
 their homes with a mark of respect for  
 the Late King, the celebration of whose  
 Silver Jubilee they participated in  
 only a month ago.

The death of His Late Majesty  
 has raised a great King who in his  
 lifetime was regarded as a real father  
 of his people and a great pointer for  
 good not only for Europe but all over  
 the world. King George V. was  
 the greatest monarch in Europe and  
 throughout the whole world, yet  
 whose Empire the last living was.

The Late King was to European  
 and the world's politics what a "the  
 Governor" was to a colonial empire,  
 and no ruler is ever missed until he  
 has been seen. His Late Majesty  
 King GEORGE V., or His Principal  
 Monarchs of State as to the right  
 steps to take in the management of  
 his Empire. Today in the dignity of  
 His death on recapping from his

the Prime of Wales was "Wales Up,  
 England" which shows His Late  
 Majesty's close observance of world  
 politics as well as an active statement  
 who devoted his time to the full  
 interests of the British Empire.

Since the Late King's accession to  
 the Throne, the constitution of the  
 British Empire has been made strong,  
 founded by the granting of autonomous  
 powers to all his self-governing sub-  
 jects most known as Dominion—a  
 policy that has brought a blood more  
 closely the different far-flung per-  
 tains of the great Empire, the latest  
 example of which is India.

We in Nigeria have derived great  
 benefits under the British Empire  
 during His Late Majesty's reign,  
 although not yet self-governing, yet  
 have been granted a limited franchise  
 with a Training and Higher College,  
 Staff Appointments in the Civil and  
 Medical Services, along with a host  
 list of other beneficial changes and  
 progress.

Therefore, we as loyal subjects of  
 the British Empire, respectfully  
 tender our deep sympathy to the Queen  
 the members of the Royal Family and  
 the British Empire for the loss of a  
 great monarch and father.

The Late King is succeeded by  
 his eldest son, His Most Gracious  
 Majesty King EDWARD VIII, to  
 whom we tender our loyal loyalty  
 and welcome, with prayers that His  
 Majesty may be granted long, happy  
 and prosperous reign.

**GOD SAVE THE KING.**

**AGRIAN.**

The *Yoruba News* wishes its com-  
 ments to the numerous readers, friends  
 and persons whose insight and interest  
 appears to be increasingly enjoyed in  
 the past.

After two and half years of editing  
 from the local, many things have hap-  
 pened in the political, religious and social  
 life of the country in which the jour-  
 nalist is so prominently an extending  
 force. It is not easy to get the ground  
 story, but we are sure that the usual  
 words of our God, The King and The  
 Empire.

In view of our efforts, the unsolicited  
 correspondence to enable it in country,  
 before the end of the year, every con-  
 tributor for the *Yoruba News*,  
 and RACE.

**Selotimo.**

King George V. is the father of a new  
 era, and we are all proud to see it. It  
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Edits: Here are some of the things that  
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Press Notices.

The following telegram has been received by the Governor from the Secretary of State for the Colonies—

"I am asked by the National Bony Week Council to inform you that the second place in the Shield competition has been awarded this year to Lagos. I desire to convey my congratulations to all those responsible for this success."

MAKING TRUCK FIRM, No. 19656/102.

The Acting Chief Secretary to the Government of Nigeria presents his compliments to the Editor, *Yoruba News Herald*, and is directed to transmit herewith for information and for publication of despatch No. 846 of the 31st of July on the subject of marking of a number of tunny fish by the Portuguese ship "Albanora" in connection with the study of the migration of such fish.

Chief Secretary's Office,  
Nigeria.

Lagos-1st September, 1933.

Reference to previous correspondence—

Secretary of State's Despatch

No. 1194 of the 23rd July 1933.

NOTES No. 846

Downing Street,

21 July, 1933.

Sir,  
I have the honour to transmit to you for your information, copies of the paper noted below on the subject of the marking of Tunny Fish by the Portuguese ship "Albanora."

I have the honour to be  
Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,  
(Sgd.) P. Caniffes-Lister.

From the Portuguese Ambassador,

13th July, 1933.

Portuguese Embassy,

London,

2nd July 1933

Sir,  
My predecessor General Garcia Bando in his Note No. 145 of the 28th June 1932 informed Your Excellency of the marking of 60 tunny fish by the Portuguese oceanographical ship "Albanora."

I now have the honour to state that this year "Albanora" is again engaged in the same program of marking 60 tunny fish by attaching to their tails a metal plate in which the following words are engraved—  
"R.P. - Aguiar-Lisbon Portugal"

together with an order number.

The Portuguese Ministry of Marine would most highly appreciate it if the fishing service maritime and customs authorities oceanographical institutes shipowners and fishermen in this country would assist as they so kindly did last year by sending to the "Aguiar Vasco da Gama" Lisbon, Portugal all such metal plates found together with an indication of the date, time and locality of findings as well as any

further information which may be considered useful.

A prize will be awarded to any fisherman returning a plate and giving the desired details.

I should be most grateful if Your Excellency would again be so good as to notify the competent departments and institutions in this effect.

I have, etc.

(Sgd.) R. EMMIS URBAN

The Right Honourable

Sir John Simon, G.C.S.I. K.C.V.O. M.P.  
etc., etc., etc.

The following table dated the 14th of September received by His Excellency the Governor from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales is reproduced for general information.

I greatly regret to hear of the sudden death of Colonel Rowe, not only because he was attached to my staff during my visit to West Africa in 1925, but also for the loss that he will be to Yorubaland the foundation of which he was an ably building in Nigeria. I sincerely hope that someone may be found to carry on his work for T.N.B. in the Colony.

EMMAO P.

News & Notes.

The members of the General Management Committee, Maps Church, gave a "Send Off" function on Tuesday June 20, in honour of the consecration of the Rev. Canon A. B. Akinyele the Pastor of the Church for the Diocese. It was a grand affair and largely attended.

The Ibadan Old Grammarian Society gave a brilliant "Send-Off" on June 21, in honour of Canon Akinyele, the Bishop-Elect, on the occasion of his relinquishing the Principalship of the Ibadan Grammar School for Bishops of Ondo District.

The Echo Agitation of Yoruba Land had a Farewell Meeting on June 22, in honour of the Rev. Canon A. B. Akinyele the Chaplain of the Order on his promotion to the post of an Assistant Bishop of the Lagos Diocese.

The Rev. S. V. LATOPE, B.A., LL.B., the new Principal of Ibadan Grammar School was given a Reception by the I. P. U. and Ibadan Old Grammarian Society in the school Hall on July 25th. The chair was occupied by Capt. J. A. MacKenzie, M.C., District Officer.

Two Addresses from both societies were read by Messrs J. L. Ogunyela and T. L. Oyejina. The function was well attended.

The 6th Anniversary Service of the Order of Cherubim and Seraphim, Ibadan, was conducted on Aug. 5.

In connection with the School's Anniversary celebration a Lecture was delivered at Government School Osoyan on August

1934 by Mr. W. H. Thompson, M.A., Principal of N. A. Elementary Centre.

The Rev. D. A. F. Oshinubi of Oyo Church Ibadan has been appointed to be the Pastor of Christ Church, Pungoju Ibadan.

Wishing Pastor Oshinubi all success at his new station.

New Fuel Reserve.

The new Social the Roman Catholic Mission at Ona Aye to Aye has been provided for a Fuel-wood Reserve by the Ibadan Native Administration and to serve as an extension grounds for the springs supplying the Reservoir on both sides of the hill.

U. B. F. & S. M. T. Lodge.

The institution of "SABAN" Lodge, No. 144, of the United Brothers of Friendship and Sisters of the Mystical Fan, took place in this town, on September 9. Delegates from the sister Lodges in Lagos Ebute meta and Abeokuta attended. Wishing the new fraternity all success.

UNITED AFRICAN METHODIST CHURCH, IBADAN

The Harvest Service of the Independent African Methodist Church took place at Oke Alawo, Abebe, Ibadan on Sept. 3rd.

THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH

The local body of the Apostolic Church formerly known as AAABARA observed the 1st Anniversary of the Great Revival of 1932 on Sunday Sept. 3. The morning and afternoon services were conducted by Pastor J. A. Batafoga of Oke Oye-Iles and Pastor George Perfect of South Wales, England. Mr. J. S. B. Odagbo was ordained a Pastor of the Church during the celebration.

We congratulate Counsellor I. B. Akinyele and Secretary Hanson for progress made.

IBADAN.

A Rural School was opened at Joboson Jere Church, Iyaje on Monday, Sept. 18 by the London of U.N.A. Church, Ibadan. Several gentlemen from the town attended.

OBITUARY.

We deeply regret to chronicle the death of Sergeant Major Awosile of Ibadan N. A. Police, which sad event occurred at his term on Sunday Sept. 11. His remains were buried at Yemofe Cemetery in the presence of H. L. Ward-Pence, Esq. the Resident of the Province, Capt. J. A. MacKenzie the D.O. and other Administrative Officers, also the Chief, N. A. Staff Police, Alimosho and a large crowd. Our sympathies to the bereaved family.

WASU HOSTEL.

We are pleased to learn that the Hostel of the West African Students Union has been opened on from 1st January. It is situated at 82 Camden Road, London N. W. 1 among the houses in the Central area of London.





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