

*The Chief Secretary to Lagos, Nigeria*  
*Editor & Proprietor*  
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# THE YORUBA NEWS.

FOR GOD, THE KING AND THE PEOPLE.

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## MUSSOLINI & ABYSSINIA.

BY

Adesina Ogundeji.

Mussolini the Dictator of Italy has made it his fixed determination to dominate the Ethiopian Empire for the purpose of which he declared war on Abyssinia on October 1st without the least regard for the League of Nations' covenants which bind every nation from settling international disputes with warfare, without first submitting the matter to the League, without any shadow of doubt, we firmly believe that Italy, one of the signatory powers, by the violation of these covenants, has since become an international criminal.

The League of Nations came into being when the Treaty of Peace with Germany was ratified on January 10, 1919, its Charter containing 26 Articles known as Covenants which contained clauses on the prevention and settlement of disputes among the contracting powers.

Its clauses bind members not to employ force on any settlement of a dispute until submitted to the League or to an arbitrator, the right to resort to war was hitherto retained in case the League should fail to reach unanimous decision.

In 1933, Germany and Japan withdrew their membership but Italy was still a member of the League when she declared war on Abyssinia in October last and she is still a member to-day. What a violation of covenants? No doubt the covenants in which Italy was a signatory has now become a mere scrap of paper in Mussolini's estimation.

The disputes which had now resulted in the loss of so many lives arose from mere colonial expansion question which Italy through her dictator demanded from Abyssinia. This request was not favoured by His Majesty the Emperor of Ethiopia and the existing bloody struggle is the result of the unfortunate event.

For the past few months reports of various nature on war activities had been flashing here, there and everywhere all over the world and we have been following the reports with keen interest. In the Press, various war correspondents have expressed different opinions according to individual personal observation at the front. Certainly, we know it is not unusual to get different reports from one or the other news Agents.

Latest reports indicate that a strong bombardment is being carried on by general Graziani with nineteen big capromi bombers over Jigjiga, the Headquarters of General Nasibu, commander of the armies defending the Harrar-Djibou Railway.

From various observation, we are induced to believe that the object of General Graziani is to cut the Jigjiga-Berbera Road which is the only remaining route for the importation of arms by Abyssinia, the attempt if allowed to be successfully carried out will be a great danger for Abyssinia but we very much doubt its success.

In view of the new Peace Move, the responsibility of which now rests

on the committee of Thirteen, Italy is trying hard to create a spectacular record of success before the June rains begin and Abyssinia is moving forward in her efforts to face whatever may come.

In fact it is the determination of Mussolini the self-willed Dictator of Italy to dominate Ethiopia as a result of her refusal to grant her lands for colonial expansion to Italy, therefore, Abyssinia is prepared to fight to the last man. This is terrible.

## Here, There, & Everywhere.

By  
TRAFFIC JUJU

Reports of various nature recently to our hearing indicate that the daily lives and property of traders and travellers in a vicinity near Ogbomoso are overshadowed by criminal acts and its perpetrators. We are further made to understand that the perpetrators have been temporarily fortunate in escaping the immediate notice of the Police Authorities who would have effected their arrest with a view to bringing them to book.

The reports further show that the town is teeming with burglars and robbers who daily lay in ambush and thereby make the lives and property of the law abiding citizen, traders and travellers quite insecure. Their depredations have become a matter of daily occurrence. These nefarious gangsters who are said to have housed themselves in a secluded part of a vicinity at Ogbomoso on Sakki Ilorin Road from where they usually set out on their wicked activities.

To cite an instance out of many recent occurrences, we understand a travelling trader was attacked by some members of the heinous fraternity on the road enroute above on the 8th instant, when the unfortunate man was murdered without a just cause. The report of this incident if correct reveals a serious situation of affairs in that district. We call the special attention of the Police Authority to this crying evil with a view to the necessary investigation.

In the interest of the public and to safeguard the lives of traders, travellers and inhabitants of the area, we look forward to our Police Authorities with a view to supplying a remedial Agency.

## THE YORUBA NEWS.

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necessarily endorsed by the Editor.

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 1936

## A PROBLEM, FOR THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

A PROBLEM that has been engaging the attention of the Agricultural Department since the last ten years or more is the Black Pod Disease that had and is still playing havoc with our Cocoa trees all over the Yoruba States of the Protectorate of Nigeria. This disease was the cause of heavy losses to farmers who are engaged in the industry of raising Cocoa for the export trade of the country.

The trouble is caused by the method of planting the trees closely to each other by the farmers without allowing sufficient spaces between them for ventilation and healthy growth as well as future development of the trees, so that in course of a few years after yielding fruits, the branches of the Cocoa trees always begin to touch each other and finally inter-laced, thereby shutting out the action of the sun's rays and fresh pure air from the trees.

The effect of this close planting of Cocoa trees adopted simply for the purpose of reducing the cost of labour in the cultivation of the trees, is the cause of Black Pod disease, which had already destroyed hundreds of thousands of thriving trees and million tons of Cocoa Pods which would have brought large fortunes to the farmers, and hundreds of thousands Pounds revenue to the Nigerian Treasury.

By shutting out the sun's rays and

fresh air from the trees, the dead leaves and shells of Cocoa Pods lying on the ground around the trees are afforded an opportunity of producing microbes and germs in the process of decay; these, after devouring the refuse, generally found their way to the roots, trunks and stems of the trees in search of food and, in the course of which they finally attach themselves to the green cocoa pods on the trees, sucking and draining up the sugar juice forming the basis of seed in the pod.

Once they attached themselves to it, nothing could drive them away till they shall have killed the cocoa tree by sucking up its life blood—the juice—entirely, leaving the withered stems and trunk at the mercy of the fire-wood collector.

It is true, the Agricultural Department had recommended pruning, thinning, chemical washing, &c., as preventives against the ravages of Black Pod pests, but the fact remains that whilst the Department had been able to demonstrate these processes in the several farms with success, only very few farmers have ever tried out these experiments on their own cocoa farms in real earnestness. The result is that the Black Pod disease has been destroying tens of thousands of cocoa trees every year and which are seldom replaced except by the creating of new farms as cocoa plantations from year to year, only to be destroyed by the pests in the same way after a few years' time.

The worst and the most serious part of the present situation is the unpleasant fact that the aphid causing this Black Pod disease has now extended its operation to the Kola Tree, our ancient economic plant.

It should not surprise farmers in Olomu, Egbesi, Aggrey Districts and elsewhere to see their valuable Kola Trees withering and dying off by the thousands within the next 5 years as a result of the ravages of this pest which has already infected Kola trees from the decaying trunks of cocoa trees.

We understand the safest method in treating the pest is by spraying the affected trees with chemicals as well as thinning them with a view to better ventilations on the plantation. The digging of trenches for burying the emptied cocoa pods and decaying leaves are also recommended by the Agricultural Department.

Above all the foregoing safeguards, we appeal to the Department of Agriculture to save us from the impending peril of losing our valuable Cocoa and Kola Trees, the remaining source of wealth of our people in the Yoruba States and Southern Provinces of Nigeria.

To be continued.

## THAT ELECTION QUESTION.

By ADRIANA OUBAYE.

The long drawn out hearing of the Legislative Council Election Petition, filed last November by Dr. Frederick Nankia Bruce, the unsuccessful candidate in the Legislative Council Election of municipal member for Akera, held on the 28th of October last, in which Mr. A. W. Koyo Thompson gained a fine victory which constitutes, perhaps one of the greatest landmarks in the political history of Gold Coast, came to a dramatic end on the 2nd March 1936 when judgment was given, according to the opinion of the presiding judge, His Honour Mr. Strother Stewart M.A. B. LITTE, B.C.L. a Judge of the Supreme Court of Gold Coast, in favour of the Petitioner.

At the end of the polling on October 8th last, Mr. Augustus Williams Koyo Thompson was declared elected by the returning Officer by a majority of 104 votes over the Petitioner.

The figures as declared by the returning Officer were:—Koyo Thompson 1,030 Nankia Bruce 926 majority 104. The total electorate of Akera was 4,058.

Consequent upon the unsuccessful candidature of Dr. Frederick Nankia Bruce and the alleged unconstitutional methods said to have been adopted by members of Mambo party who presented Koyo Thompson as their candidate, a petition was therefore forwarded to the Government praying that election of October 8th be set aside and in consideration of the petition several sittings of the case were held in the Supreme Court of Gold Coast which came to a dramatic end on March 2nd when the presiding Judge declared the election null and void.

In consequence of the Supreme Court of Gold Coast declaring the election of October 8th null and void His Excellency the Governor of that Colony has approved the decision and has made an order to the effect that April 16th next should be the day for election and in order to avoid further occurrence of misunderstanding, the Government has agreed to divide the electing district into four wards: East, West, North, South.

We shall watch with keen interest the result of the election.

## News &amp; Notes.

MR. C. G. LAWSON.

Mr. C. G. Lawson, Travelling Representative of The West African Soap Co., Apapa was in town last week in the interest of his principals.

He left for Ile-Ife the third day.

MR. J. A. TAIWO.

Mr. J. A. Taiwo of the Telegraph Office, Nigerian Railway, Ibadan, left last week for Abeokuta on vacation leave and was relieved by Mr. ————.

We wish Mr. Taiwo a well earned leave.



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