# Annual Report Co-operative Department Ministry Of Commerce 1956-57

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## *FOREWORD*

*In introducing this report I would like to emphasise the importance of Co-operative Societies in our national life. They are valuable because in co-operative societies the people organise themselves for active participation in measures to promote their own welfare and economic development; because through them Nigerian nationals can play a more prominent part in the economic life of the country; because in them the people gain valuable experience of democratic procedures and business methods, and education in management of their own affairs; because they are organisations for self-help by mutual help and will do much to produce a virile and self-reliant nation; and because the existence of a strong co-operative movement provides an effective check on the abuses of unrestrained private enterprise and diminishes the possibility of exploitation of producer and consumer by trader and moneylender.*

*The Government also appreciates that the co-operative movement can be an invaluable instrument for national development in Eastern Nigeria, as it has proved in many other under-developed countries, and for the dissemination and putting into practice on a wide scale of modern and progressive ideas and techniques; but realises that in utilising the co-operative movement as an instrument for carrying out parts of its programme of social and economic development the Government respects the essential co-operative structure, the independent management and the democratic organisation of co-operative societies, without which co-operatives cannot fulfil their functions or retain their internationally recognised co-operative nature.*

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# INTRODUCTION

This report covers the period 1st April, 1956 to 31st December, 1957. In many cases, however, Statistical Returns cover only the Government financial year ending 31st March, 1957. It had not been a spectacular period for Co-operation. There was a change of Registrar but the Senior Staff Establishment remained full throughout the period. The Junior Staff on the other hand was increased by nine Inspectors but because of the lengthy training that is necessary, the Inspectors were not effective during the period. In the face of this staffing difficulty, the Movement could expand but little. There were 153 new registrations, but sixteen societies' registration was cancelled (excluding eighteen cancellations under the old Ordinance) and another sixty-five societies although retaining registration at 1st January, 1958 were already being wound up so that the effective increase in the number of societies was only sixty-eight.

2. The resources of the Department had been concentrated on expending and supervising the Produce Marketing Co-operatives and in the former Calabar Province only on the re-organisation of the Thrift and Credit Societies. Both undertakings achieved some measure of success but there was little room for supervisory work in other directions. Fortunately, in the former Calabar Province where 80 per cent of the Societies are, the reduction in supervision by the Department was partly offset by the increased supervision by a staff of Supervisors appointed by the Co-operators themselves.

3. There was no change in the Government's Policy for Co-operatives but as in the preceding year the implementation of the Policy had been slowed down due to shortage of staff. At recent Colonial Office Training Courses for Senior Co-operative Officers which took place at Buea, Southern Cameroons the new Eastern Region Co-operative Societies Law which became effective from 10th May, 1956 was proclaimed "a model Co-operative Law" and one of the best in the Commonwealth.

# PART I

## General Progress

4. Appendix A is a table of figures showing the membership and finances of the various types of societies at 31st March, 1957 and giving for comparison the corresponding figures for 31st March, 1956. The growth of the Movement is summarised below:

| *Year ending* | *No. of Societies* | *Member-ship* | *Total funds* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 31st March, 1955 ... ... ... ... | 933 | 43,204 | 457,840 |
| 31st March, 1956 ... ... ... ... | 1,016 | 46,896 | 594,360 |
| 31st March, 1957 ... ... ... ... | 1,085 | 48,717 | 741,760 |

5. It is gratifying to note that whereas the increase in the number of societies and of members had slowed down, the total funds had doubled in the past three years and increased by 24 per cent over the preceding year.

6. *Geographical Distribution.*—The distribution of societies by provinces and types at 31st March, 1957 was as follows (31st March, 1956 figures in brackets):—

| *Province* | *Calabar* | *Ogoja* | *Onitsha* | *Owerri* | *Rivers* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Type* | | | | | | |
| Credit .. .. .. | 744 (721) | 8 (7) | 23 (18) | 112 (98) | 22 (22) | 909 (866) |
| Thrift .. .. .. | 10 (8) | 7 (6) | 20 (19) | 7 (7) | 11 (11) | 55 (51) |
| Consumers .. | — (—) | — (—) | 6 (5) | 1 (1) | — (—) | 7 (6) |
| Processing and Marketing .. .. | 15 (14) | 8 (6) | 1 (1) | 14 (10) | — (—) | 38 (31) |
| Crafts and Industries | 1 (—) | 1 (1) | 2 (2) | 1 (—) | — (—) | 5 (3) |
| Others .. .. | 3 (1) | 2 (2) | 9 (8) | 2 (1) | — (—) | 16 (12) |
| TOTAL: | | | | | | |
| Primaries .. .. | 773 (744) | 26 (22) | 61 (53) | 137 (117) | 33 (33) | 1030 (969) |
| Secondaries .. .. | 35 (32) | 1 (1) | 3 (1) | *13 (11) | 3 (2) | 55 (47) |
| Total .. .. | 808 (776) | 27 (23) | 64 (54) | 150 (128) | 36 (35) | 1085 (1016) |
| Women's Societies .. | 132 (134) | — (—) | 5 (5) | 6 (5) | — (—) | 143 (144) |

*Including the three Regional apex societies with headquarters at Aba.

7. The former Owerri Province had the largest number of new registrations of Co-credits (24) with the former Calabar Province closely following (23) but the expansion of Co-credits (43) was much less than in the previous year (75).

8. The marked attention paid to our Marketing Sector during the period has resulted in the registration of two new Marketing Unions (at Itu, Enyong Division for cocoa and palm produce and at Okporoenyi, Bende Division for cocoa) and two Marketing Societies (at Abba Omege, Afikpo Division for Rice and at Aba, Aba Division for Rubber). The Rubber Society has an area of operation covering the entire Region.

9. Progress in the formation of other types of society such as consumer, farming and industrial continued to be slow but the Orlu Wood Workers' Society (industrial) was registered during the period.

10. The organisation of the Co-operative Oil Mills at Ikeduru and Ikot Ama was continued but it was not possible for the E.R.D.C. to complete arrangements for the handing over of the Mills. The Co-operative Mill at Ikot Iyan in Uyo Division owned

by the Asutan Ekpe Co-operative Community Development League had a successful year. Its net surplus (31–3–57) of £3,163 11s 1d was the highest monetary return by a society during the year. But the League has continued to experience teething troubles and has been unable to develop the "Co-operative Spirit" or to adopt true Co-operative methods.

11. The Eastern Nigeria Co-operative Exporters Limited purchased 236 tons of palm produce (oil and kernel) and 727 tons of cocoa up to 31st March, 1957 but was not a financial success. There were signs of unwieldiness and a serious clash of interest between the palm produce and the cocoa groups in the Union. A proposal to split the organisation into two Unions handling palm produce and cocoa respectively is under consideration.

12. The Co-operative Union of Eastern Nigeria and the two Provincial Co-operative Banks (Calabar and Owerri) had another successful year although the Calabar Provincial Co-operative Bank ended with a small deficit for the second year running.

13. The first Housing Co-operative, the Old Paulines Co-operative Housing Society had continued to expand steadily while exploring ways and means of solving its financial difficulties.

14. The Regional Co-operative Bank of Eastern Nigeria had a most encouraging and successful year. It made a net surplus of £1,113 10s 4d (31–3–57) and was easily the best managed society in the Region.

15. The number of arbitrations, inquiries, and liquidations remained at the record level of the preceding year. Much valuable time of the Field Staff was occupied by these legal activities leaving much less for development and consolidation.

16. The cost to the Regional Government of the Department of Co-operative Societies in the financial year ending 31st March, 1957 was £35,728 (details below). This included a grant of £2,800 to the Co-operative Union of Eastern Nigeria. In addition, £5,290 reimbursable by the E.R.M.B. was spent on palm produce marketing organisation.

| | *Personal Emoluments* | *Other Charges* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Eastern Region Government ... | 20,719 | 9,719 | 30,438 |
| Eastern Region Marketing Board ... | 3,299 | 1,991 | 5,290 |
| Total ... ... £ | 24,018 | 11,710 | 35,728 |

17. Mr R. M. Leslie, Registrar left Enugu on leave pending retirement on 6th May, 1957, and one Assistant Registrar left the Department on transfer to another Department. Two Senior Inspectors were promoted Assistant Registrars (on trial) and eleven Inspectors (nine Trainees and two Temporary Seniors) were recruited. At 1st January, 1958 the Staff of the Department was: One Registrar, one Senior Assistant Registrar, six Assistant Registrars, four Senior Co-operative Inspectors, forty-nine Trainee Inspectors (including ten temporary ones), one Staff Officer, three First-class Clerks, ten Second and Third-class Clerks, five Clerical Assistants, four Messengers, one Watchnight, and one Labourer. All were Nigerians excepting the Registrar.

18. The statistics in this report relate only to registered societies. Over one hundred other societies were reported as being in process of formation or awaiting registration at the end of December, 1957. The undue delay in the registration of many societies has become unavoidable owing to shortage of staff. The statistics are compiled from returns submitted with their annual accounts by societies and although Departmental Staff attempt to check the accounts and returns, absolute accuracy cannot be claimed.

19. The Honourable Minister of Trade and his successor, the Honourable Minister of Commerce paid several visits to offices of the Department and to societies.

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## PART II

### Thrift and Credit

20. *Progress.*—The following table illustrates the development of the Co-credit Movement during the last four years:—

| *Year ending* | *Societies* | *Membership* | *Funds* £ | *Loans Issued* £ | *Percentage Overdue Loans* % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 31–3–54 ... | 682 | 26,283 | 203,195 | 272,914 | 0.8 |
| 31–3–55 ... | 791 | 28,696 | 266,078 | 327,290 | 1.2 |
| 31–3–56 ... | 866 | 31,582 | 326,193 | 380,044 | 2.4 |
| 31–3–57 ... | 910 | 32,578 | 378,367 | 404,797 | 2.3 |

During 1956–57 there was a 5 per cent increase of societies (9.5 per cent last year) a 3 per cent increase of membership (10 per cent last year) and a 16 per cent increase of total funds (22.6 per cent last year). Breaking these figures up by provinces, the following percentage increases result:—

| | *Societies* | *Membership* | *Funds* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Calabar Province ... ... | 3.3 | 2 | 13.2 |
| Owerri Province ... ... | 13.3 | 10 | 46.3 |
| Rivers Province ... ... | — | 1.3 | 0.8 |
| Onitsha Province ... ... | 27.7 | 78.3 | 81.2 |
| Ogoja Province ... ... | 14.4 | 8.5 | 32.3 |

C.F. figures given in paragraph 25 of the 1955–56 Report.

21. *Overdue Loans.*—In the 1955–56 accounts, the percentage of overdues to outstanding loans was 2.4. This figure although within controllable limits was an all time record and the subject of considerable anxiety. At 2.3 per cent the position had remained practically unchanged during 1956–57 but the downward trend is reassuring. By provinces, the figures for overdue loans are as follows:—

| *Province* | *No. of Co-credits* | *Loans Outstanding* | | *Loans Overdue* | | *Overdues Percentage of O/S* % | *No. of Societies with Overdues* | *Reserve Funds* £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *No.* | *Amount* £ | *No.* | *Amount* £ | | | |
| Calabar ... | 744 | 19,418 | 297,572 | 647 | 7,556 | 3.8 | 120 | 15,761 |
| Owerri ... | 113 | 2,434 | 33,330 | 53 | 263 | 1.5 | 23 | 1,143 |
| Rivers ... | 22 | 568 | 7,889 | 16 | 133 | 2.2 | 6 | 1,136 |
| Ogoja ... | 8 | 87 | 1,587 | 13 | 125 | 15.3 | 5 | 73 |
| Onitsha ... | 21 | 268 | 2,808 | 8 | 40 | 3.5 | 5 | 66 |
| Total ... | 908 | 22,825 | 343,186 | 737 | 8,117 | — | 159 | 18,179 |

22. *Purposes of Loans.*—In evaluating statistics for "loans purposes", due allowance must be made for the general practice of borrowers to cover up the true purposes by stating only those purposes they believe to be permitted by the bye-laws. Loans were broadly issued as follows: for trading 55.8 per cent, for farming and agriculture 30.8

per cent, for fishing 3.1 per cent, for "purchase of property" 3.1 per cent, for industries 2.5 per cent, for building 2.3 per cent and for sundry purposes 2.4 per cent. The following breakdown shows the variation by provinces of the percentages of loans issued for the various purposes:—

| *Province* | *Farming and Agriculture* | *Fishing* | *Industries* | *Building* | *Purchase of property* | *Trading* | *Other purposes* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Calabar ... ... | 33 | 3.4 | 1.4 | 2.1 | 3.3 | 54 | 2.8 |
| Owerri ... ... | 13.8 | — | 9.0 | 3.0 | 0.3 | 67.3 | 6.6 |
| Rivers ... ... | 15.9 | 7.4 | 5.7 | 7.6 | 4.9 | 35.0 | 23.5 |
| Ogoja ... ... | 34.6 | — | 1.3 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 59.3 | 3.4 |
| Onitsha ... ... | 29.8 | — | 0.2 | — | — | 62.5 | 7.5 |

The 23.5 per cent "Other Purposes" in Rivers Province includes 10 per cent for marriage and 8 per cent for education. In the Calabar Province Agricultural pursuit centres largely on the "acquisition and redemption of palm groves". Property purchased include canoes, bicycles, and sewing machines.

23. This has been a remarkable year for Co-credits firstly because the policy of amalgamations and consolidation initiated during the period under review has met with encouraging support not only from the Calabar Province but from the other areas as well and secondly because the all-out effort to fight dishonesty and corruption and bad loan policy has borne good fruit. The paucity of reported cases involving dishonesty and fraud is undoubtedly a pointer to the appreciable decline in dishonest and corrupt practices in societies. An effective check is being inflicted on bad loan policies by the strict application of offsets and arbitrations on loan defaulters. "Pool Fund" rules have been introduced as an effective weapon to fight the "Isusu menace". The number of Farmers' Societies handling Co-credit transactions has increased to fourteen in Onitsha Province, six in Owerri Province, and four in Ogoja Province.

## PART III

### Thrift

24. The type of society primarily concerned with thrift is the salary-earners' Co-operative Thrift and Loan Society or "Co-thrift". Thrift is nevertheless of primary importance in both the Co-credit Movement and Marketing Societies and is receiving every encouragement. During the 1956–57 financial year, savings in Credit Societies increased by £37,566 and in Marketing Societies by £2,656. For the past four years, the position for Co-thrift Societies can be summarised as follows:—

| *Year ending* | *Societies* | *Membership* | *Total Funds* £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| 31–3–54 | 54 | 2,542 | 109,335 |
| 31–3–55 | 57 | 2,770 | 118,270 |
| 31–3–56 | 51 | 2,728 | 127,826 |
| 31–3–57 | 55 | 2,921 | 118,001 |

The fact that total funds decreased by £9,825 notwithstanding the registration of four new societies is a reflection of the noticeable recession in the general economic situation.

25. At 31st March, 1957, "Ordinary Savings" (i.e., not freely withdrawable) totalled £95,265, an increase of £10,783 over last year but withdrawals amounted to £27,106 (£2,121 more than last year). Of the withdrawals, £3,991 or 14.7 per cent were for purposes not sanctioned by the bye-laws (c.f. £3,395 or 14 per cent last year), £8,806 or 32.5 per cent were to pay off members who for one reason or another left the society, and £12,583 or 46.4 per cent were for the acquisition of land or erection of buildings as permitted in the bye-laws.

26. Outstanding loans at 31st March, 1957 totalled £13,933. Of these, nine loans amounting to £555 (4 per cent) were overdue (c.f. 0.4 per cent overdues last year). Altogether, 1,298 loans totalling £29,723 were issued. Analysis of the purposes of loans shows the following percentages:—

| | *Per cent* |
|---|---|
| Building ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 47.0 |
| Acquisition of Land ... ... ... ... ... ... | 8.9 |
| Education of dependents ... ... ... ... ... | 16.0 |
| Medical ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1.1 |
| Purchase of cycles and other property ... ... ... | 0.5 |
| Farming ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 0.5 |
| Marriage... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 0.9 |
| Leave expenses ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1.0 |
| Funerals ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 0.6 |
| Others ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 23.5 |
| | 100.0 |

Building and acquisition of land through loans claimed £12,218 in addition to £12,583 withdrawn from members' Ordinary Savings for both purposes, making a total of £24,801 for landed property. Societies able to purchase houses in order to provide accommodation at reasonable rent to its members are encouraged to do so.

27. Changes which have occurred in the Investment of Co-thrift Funds in the past three years are indicated below:—

| | 1954–55 | 1955–56 | 1956–57 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Government Securities... ... ... | 7,136 | 6,399 | 6,609 |
| Shares in Co-operative Societies ... | 947 | 1,148 | 1,363 |
| Deposits in Co-operative Banks ... | 9,356 | 33,099 | 49,743 |
| Other Investments ... ... ... | 773 | 545 | 699 |
| Post Office Savings Bank ... ... | 80,178 | 54,088 | 46,583 |
| Commercial Banks ... ... ... | 5,358 | 6,827 | 15,303 |
| | 103,748 | 102,106 | 120,300 |

The steady increase of deposits in Co-operative Banks underlines the important role which Co-thrifts are expected to play in central financing. Ten societies were able to pay members interest on their savings at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent or above.

## PART IV

### Central Finance

28. *Regional Co-operative Bank.*—The following figures indicate the Bank's progress:

| *Year ending* | *Membership (Societies)* | *Share capital* £ | *Working capital* £ | *Reserve fund* £ | *Govt. stock* £ | *Net surplus* £ | *Net deficit* £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 31–3–55 | 52 | 1,515 | 6,193 | — | — | 2 | — |
| 31–3–56 | 95 | 2,226 | 48,322 | 10,058 | 580 | 683 | — |
| 31–3–57 | 83 | 2,638 | 78,141 | 10,230 | 980 | 1,114 | — |

The Bank obtains the bulk of its capital from shares and deposits of Co-operative Societies which are members except that overdrafts for Co-operative produce marketing have been obtained from the African Continental Bank (an indigenous commercial bank) on a Government guarantee.

29. The Bank's new building at Aba was opened by His Excellency, the Governor of the Eastern Region of Nigeria on the 9th of February, 1957. The erection of the building valued at £11,000 has been made possible by an Eastern Regional Government grant of £10,000 received in April, 1955. The building now accommodates the Head Office of the Bank, Office of the Co-operative Union of Eastern Nigeria Limited, Office of the Eastern Nigerian Co-operative Exporters Limited, Office of the Owerri Provincial Co-operative Bank Limited, and a Meeting Hall. A branch of the Bank has been established in Enugu but until the Bank's own building becomes available, the new branch has continued to use the Co-operative Office in Enugu.

30. The Bank continued to finance the marketing of cocoa and palm produce by Co-operatives and to make short-term loans and advances to all types of Co-operative Societies. During the 1956–57 financial year, twenty loans were issued amounting to £38,450. Of these loans large slices went to the Eastern Nigeria Co-operative Exporters Limited for cocoa and palm produce (£14,000), Abakaliki Co-operative Rice Mill Society (£4,000), Calabar Provincial Co-operative Bank (£3,000), Owerri Provincial Co-operative Bank (£1,800) and the Abba Omege Co-operative Rice Mill Society (£950). At 31st March, 1957, fifteen loans amounting to £21,752 were outstanding but only one amounting to £200 was overdue. Overdrafts on current accounts totalled £35,000. The Bank is an agent of the Law Union and Rock Insurance Company Limited, Lagos; the Norwich Union, Lagos; and the Provincial Insurance Company Limited, Onitsha, and has handled assurance business for many Co-operative Societies and individuals.

31. It was another successful period for the Board of Management and Executive Committee but the Bank is certainly very much in need of some outside finance to expand its activities. It is too much to expect the Government to continue to guarantee overdrafts indefinitely but the question of security has become increasingly difficult as it is not generally realised that the real security in lending to the Regional Co-operative Bank lies in the soundness and stability of the whole Co-operative Movement.

32. *The Calabar Provincial Co-operative Bank.*—The following figures illustrate the Bank's recent development:—

| *Year ending* | *Membership (Societies)* | *Share capital* £ | *Working capital* £ | *Fixed deposits* £ | *Reserve fund* £ | *Net surplus* £ | *Net deficit* £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 31–3–52 ... ... | 344 | 2,025 | 8,013 | 4,248 | 60 | 218 | — |
| 31–3–53 ... ... | 436 | 2,150 | 11,694 | 5,225 | 114 | 137 | — |
| 31–3–54 ... ... | 565 | 6,593 | 18,817 | 7,120 | 148 | 413 | — |
| 31–3–55 ... ... | 650 | 8,916 | 31,834 | 10,442 | 252 | 586 | — |
| 31–3–56 ... ... | 705 | 9,674 | 32,086 | 10,889 | 398 | — | 89 |
| 31–3–57 ... ... | 745 | 24,433 | 32,765 | 11,425 | 398 | — | 67 |

33. The prevailing economic recession has resulted in a small net deficit for the second year running. 232 loans amounting to £21,585 were issued (c.f. 204 for £19,033 in 1955–56). Overdue loans numbering ten and totalling £181 were only .9 per cent of loans outstanding (£19,840) on 31st March, 1957. (c.f. 11 loans, £257, and 1.5 per cent last year). The Bank's Bookshop sales amounted to £1,069 (£888 last year) but there was a gross loss of £28 (£39 last year).

34. The Bank's Unified Service Scheme as in previous years discharged its duties creditably but its main problems, the supervision and control of Travelling Secretaries in the field, were no nearer solution. It is now generally admitted that the scheme is unwieldy and should be abandoned in favour of control of staff at the Co-credit and Credit Union levels. The number on the U.S.S. pay-roll at 31st March, 1957, was 132 (127 men including seven Supervisors and five women). A grant of £150 was received from C.U.E.N. The scheme had a reserve of £120 on 31st March, 1957.

35. *Owerri Provincial Co-operative Bank.*—The following figures indicate the Bank's progress:—

| *Year ending* | *Member-ship (Societies)* | *Share capital* £ | *Working capital* £ | *Fixed deposits* £ | *Reserve fund* £ | *Net surplus* £ | *Net deficit* £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 31-3-53 ... ... | 19 | 105 | 210 | — | — | 3 | — |
| 31-3-54 ... ... | 58 | 252 | 920 | 80 | 1 | 10 | — |
| 31-3-55 ... ... | 80 | 396 | 1,739 | 639 | 4 | 20 | — |
| 31-3-56 ... ... | 102 | 500 | 2,472 | 739 | 9 | 1 | — |
| 31-3-57 ... ... | 111 | 773 | 5,631 | 1,250 | 9 | 89 | — |

The Bank continues to make unspectacular but satisfactory progress. Forty-seven loans totalling £4,415 were issued (c.f. forty-eight and £2,773 last year). On 31st March, 1957, sixty-four loans totalling £4,162 were outstanding. Of these, two loans amounting to £207 were overdue. The Bank is now conveniently housed in the Regional Bank Buildings at Aba.

## PART V

### Consumer and Supply Societies

36. One new Consumer Society was registered in the Nsukka Division during the period making a total of seven societies on 31st December, 1957. To the services rendered by these societies must be added the supply activities of Local Co-operative Unions, Provincial Co-operative Banks, and the Co-operative Union of Eastern Nigeria. Of the seven societies, five are located in Udi Division, one in Orlu Division, and one in Nsukka Division. The pace of development is indicated below:—

| *Year ending* | *Societies* | *Member-ship* | *Turn-over* | *Net surplus* | *Net deficit* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | £ | £ | £ |
| 31–3–54 ... ... | 6 | 3,277 | 2,388 | — | 223 |
| 31–3–55 ... ... | 6 | 3,191 | 2,288 | 45 | — |
| 31–3–56 ... ... | 6 | 3,277 | 2,253 | 61 | — |
| 31–3–57 ... ... | 7 | 3,384 | 3,401 | 48 | — |

37. The new arrival in the field, the Uzondu Co-operative Village Shop in Nsukka Division was easily the most successful shop with a turnover of £1,289 and a net surplus of £24. The Umuagba Owa C.V.S. (Udi) was a close second with a turnover of £733 and a net surplus of £22. The Ogulogu C.V.S. (Udi) with a turnover of £436 again marketed its members' palm kernels to the value of £415.

## PART VI

### Producers' Marketing and Processing

38. The following comparative figures indicate the progress made in marketing in the last four years:—

| *Year ending* | *Societies* | *Member-ship* | *Working capital* £ | *Turn-over* £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 31–3–54 ... ... | 12 | 828 | 3,170 | 73,285 |
| 31–3–55 ... ... | 21 | 1,210 | 5,737 | 22,492 |
| 31–3–56 ... ... | 31 | 1,833 | 8,225 | 113,440 |
| 31–3–57 ... ... | 37 | 2,411 | 20,741 | 101,368 |

(1953–54 figures adjusted to exclude Cameroons Societies).

The following figures show the quantities of Produce handled by Societies:—

Produce Purchased by Societies

| *Year ending* | *Type* | *Tonnage* | *Value* £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| 31–3–54 ... | Palm Produce (Oil and Kernel) ... | 132 | — |
| | Cocoa ... ... ... ... | 100 | — |
| 31–3–55 ... ... | Palm Produce (Oil and Kernel) ... | 455 | 88,000 |
| | Cocoa ... ... ... ... ... | 216 | 43,200 |
| 31–3–56 ... ... | Palm Produce (Oil and Kernel) ... | 538 | 23,612 |
| | Cocoa ... ... ... ... ... | 451 | 87,240 |
| 31–3–57 ... ... | Palm Produce (Oil and Kernel) ... | 236 | 16,838 |
| | Cocoa ... ... ... ... ... | 727 | 106,653 |
| | Rubber ... ... ... ... | 20 | 4,808 |

39. *Eastern Nigerian Co-operative Exporters.*—This apex marketing Organisation registered on 20th April, 1955, had an encouraging first year of operation by handling 494 tons, which was 42 per cent of the Region's entire cocoa crop. During 1956–57, the Union not only strengthened its position in the Cocoa Market but also successfully applied to the E.R.M.B. for a Palm Produce Buying Agent's licence. The Union's growth is illustrated by the following figures:—

| *Year ending* | *Member-ship (Societies)* | *Share capital* £ | *Working capital* £ | *Reserve fund* £ | *Net surplus* £ | *Net deficit* £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 31–3–56 ... | 9 | 837 | 7,436 | — | 546 | — |
| 31–3–57 ... | 11 | 2,192 | 50,023 | 180 | — | 1,896 |

The net deficit was due mainly to teething troubles in the first season of operation in the field of palm produce marketing. The total quantity of cocoa graded was 725 tons. This was an increase of 231 tons over last year and accounted for 46.5 per cent of the Region's cocoa crop. The palm produce season opened in January, 1957, and by the end of March E.N.C.E. graded ninety-six tons of palm oil and thirty-nine tons of palm kernels. At 31st March, 1957, the value of buildings, stores, causeway, and beach sites totalled nearly £12,000. The Department had continued to throw its whole weight behind E.N.C.E.'s operations but the main problem, that of administration, remains unresolved and the position has been further aggravated by the obvious clash of interests between the cocoa and the palm produce groups within the Union.

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| *Year ending* | *Societies* | *Member-ship* | *Turn-over* | *Net surplus* | *Net deficit* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | £ | £ | £ |
| 31–3–54 ... ... | 6 | 3,277 | 2,388 | — | 223 |
| 31–3–55 ... ... | 6 | 3,191 | 2,288 | 45 | — |
| 31–3–56 ... ... | 6 | 3,277 | 2,253 | 61 | — |
| 31–3–57 ... ... | 7 | 3,384 | 3,401 | 48 | — |

37. The new arrival in the field, the Uzondu Co-operative Village Shop in Nsukka Division was easily the most successful shop with a turnover of £1,289 and a net surplus of £24. The Umuagba Owa C.V.S. (Udi) was a close second with a turnover of £733 and a net surplus of £22. The Ogulogu C.V.S. (Udi) with a turnover of £436 again marketed its members' palm kernels to the value of £415.

## PART VI

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| *Year ending* | *Societies* | *Member-ship* | *Working capital* £ | *Turn-over* £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 31–3–54 ... ... | 12 | 828 | 3,170 | 73,285 |
| 31–3–55 ... ... | 21 | 1,210 | 5,737 | 22,492 |
| 31–3–56 ... ... | 31 | 1,833 | 8,225 | 113,440 |
| 31–3–57 ... ... | 37 | 2,411 | 20,741 | 101,368 |

(1953–54 figures adjusted to exclude Cameroons Societies).

The following figures show the quantities of Produce handled by Societies:—

Produce Purchased by Societies

| *Year ending* | *Type* | *Tonnage* | *Value* £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| 31–3–54 ... | Palm Produce (Oil and Kernel) ... | 132 | — |
| | Cocoa ... ... ... ... | 100 | — |
| 31–3–55 ... ... | Palm Produce (Oil and Kernel) ... | 455 | 88,000 |
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| 31–3–56 ... ... | Palm Produce (Oil and Kernel) ... | 538 | 23,612 |
| | Cocoa ... ... ... ... ... | 451 | 87,240 |
| 31–3–57 ... ... | Palm Produce (Oil and Kernel) ... | 236 | 16,838 |
| | Cocoa ... ... ... ... ... | 727 | 106,653 |
| | Rubber ... ... ... ... | 20 | 4,808 |

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| *Year ending* | *Member-ship (Societies)* | *Share capital* £ | *Working capital* £ | *Reserve fund* £ | *Net surplus* £ | *Net deficit* £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 31–3–56 ... | 9 | 837 | 7,436 | — | 546 | — |
| 31–3–57 ... | 11 | 2,192 | 50,023 | 180 | — | 1,896 |

The net deficit was due mainly to teething troubles in the first season of operation in the field of palm produce marketing. The total quantity of cocoa graded was 725 tons. This was an increase of 231 tons over last year and accounted for 46.5 per cent of the Region's cocoa crop. The palm produce season opened in January, 1957, and by the end of March E.N.C.E. graded ninety-six tons of palm oil and thirty-nine tons of palm kernels. At 31st March, 1957, the value of buildings, stores, causeway, and beach sites totalled nearly £12,000. The Department had continued to throw its whole weight behind E.N.C.E.'s operations but the main problem, that of administration, remains unresolved and the position has been further aggravated by the obvious clash of interests between the cocoa and the palm produce groups within the Union.

40. *Cocoa.*—There were good efforts in the three producing centres of Itu, Umuahia, and Ikom. For the first time purchases at Itu were made by the Itu C.P.M.U. which handled eighty-seven tons of cocoa valued at £12,795. Umuahia again improved on the previous year by grading 225 tons valued at £33,125 (100 tons were graded in 1955–56). But the mainstay of our cocoa business continues to be Ikom. With better equipment and greatly improved storage facilities the Ikom group were able to handle 416 tons of cocoa valued at £60,734. The following figures illustrate the Ikom Union's recent development:—

| *Year ended* | *Membership (Societies)* | *Share capital* | *Working capital* | *Deposits* | *Turnover* | *Reserve fund* | *Net surplus* | *Net deficit* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 31–3–55 ... | 4 | 234 | 3,351 | 215 | 32,830 | 180 | 64 | — |
| 31–3–56 ... | 5 | 239 | 4,343 | 153 | 66,305 | 196 | 425 | — |
| 31–3–57 ... | 7 | 250 | 3,003 | 126 | 61,405 | 316 | — | 10 |

Proper access to the Union's premises and stores was secured by the building of a permanent bridge (Enoch Bridge) and Embarkment at a cost of nearly £880. The Ikom District Council authorised a grant to cover 50 per cent of the cost. Good community and co-operative effort was further demonstrated by the success of organised spraying against black pods. The credit activities of Marketing Societies continue to be small and in all Cocoa Societies progress on the thrift front was disappointing.

41. *Palm Produce.*—Results have once again lent support to the view that the hope of Co-operative Palm Produce Marketing lies in the operation of Pioneer Oil Mills. There has been no notable success among primary palm produce Marketing Societies. Of the seven existing societies, Okoyong-Odot-Ikoneto (Calabar Division) with a turnover of £8,054 is on the verge of collapse; Umuaka (Owerri) had a turnover of £1,821 and Iman (Uyo) still under the shadows of a Winding-up Order had a turnover of £1,606. Other turnovers were Ikoroffiong and Mbiabo (Enyong) £121, Ogbo Ugiri (Owerri) £52, Obibi (Owerri) £32 and Okoko-Item (Bende) £16. Three Societies operate Pioneer Oil Mills. They are: The Asutan Ekpe Co-operative Community Development League (Uyo Division) which handled 304 tons of palm oil and 1,127 tons of palm kernel and registered a turnover of £18,163 in its palm produce business; the Inyishi Ikeduru Co-operative Oil Mill Union (Owerri) which handled 220 tons of palm oil and seventy tons of palm kernel with a turnover of £9,763; and the Okon-Ika Co-operative Oil Mill Union (Anang) which processed 150 tons of palm oil and sixty-five tons of palm kernel with a turnover of £9,250. The two Oil Mill Unions still run their Mills on a rental basis and have not taken them over from the E.R.D.C. (*see* paragraph 10 above).

42. *Rubber.*—The Eastern Nigeria Co-operative Rubber Marketing Society was registered at Aba on 6th November, 1956, with a region-wide area of operation. It made an encouraging start and with a membership of thirty-six raised shares amounting to £384 and Working Capital of £3,707. By 31st March, 1957, the society handled twenty tons of Rubber and had a turnover of £4,808.

43. *Rice.*—Activity here is confined to processing. After paddy is hauled, the clean rice is handed back to members for individual sales. In the past three years, the quantities of paddy hauled and the income derived therefrom are as follows:—

| *Year ending* | *Paddy hauled* | *Hauling charges* |
|---|---|---|
| | *Tons* | £ |
| 31–3–55 ... ... ... | 1,932 | 4,598 |
| 31–3–56 ... ... ... | 2,651 | 6,214 |
| 31–3–57 ... ... ... | 2,246 | 3,547 |

The Abboh Co-operative Rice Mill Society (Awgu Division) hauled only twenty-four tons of paddy and ended the financial year with a net deficit of £114. The society is on the verge of collapse. A new society, Abba Omege Co-operative Rice Mill Society (Afikpo Division) was registered during the period. It hauled 302 tons of paddy but ended the financial year with a net deficit of £48. The Abakaliki Co-operative Rice Mill Society had a less successful year than the last. It hauled 1,920 tons of paddy and had a net surplus of £241 (c.f. 2,559 tons and net surplus of £3,417 last year). The Society's Workshop and Offices have been completed at a cost of nearly £5,000 and are awaiting formal opening. The society's ten haulers powered by seven engines together with tractor, accessories, and equipment are worth nearly £4,000.

# PART VII

## Crafts and Industries

44. Final Winding-up Orders were issued against the Abakaliki Co-operative Contracting Society and the Enugu Ex-Servicemen's Contracting Society. Only the Awka Co-operative Carvers' Union survived but a new Society, the Orlu Co-operative Woodworkers' Society was registered in June, 1956. It had a modest but encouraging beginning. With only six members its turnover was £619. Remuneration paid to members amounted to £162 and there was a trading surplus of £115 and a net surplus of £103. The Awka Co-operative Carvers' Union has not overcome its usual problems of inefficient business management and limited demand for output. The following comparative figures illustrate the society's progress:—

| *Year ending* | *Membership* | *Sales* | *Remuneration paid to Members* | *Trading surplus* | *Net surplus* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 31–3–54 ... ... | 21 | 886 | 540 | 131 | 10 |
| 31–3–55 ... ... | 21 | 1,250 | 733 | 176 | 14 |
| 31–3–56 ... ... | 16 | 1,121 | 555 | 207 | 22 |
| 31–3–57 ... ... | 18 | 1,110 | 577 | 188 | 45 |

The society's products are stocked for sale in the Department of Secondary Industries Shop at Enugu.

## PART VIII

### Women's Societies

45. Women claimed 15,019 out of 48,717 (32.4 per cent) in membership of all societies. Comparative figures are as follows:—

| *Year ending* | *Membership* | | *Number of Primary Societies* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total* | *Women* | *Total* | *Women* |
| 31–3–54 ... ... | 41,993 | 13,349 | 808 | 118 |
| 31–3–55 ... ... | 43,204 | 14,218 | 891 | 129 |
| 31–3–56 ... ... | 46,896 | 15,163 | 969 | 144 |
| 31–3–57 ... ... | 48,717 | 15,019 | 1,029 | 143 |

Of the 143 societies with an exclusively female membership, 132 Women's Co-credits are in the former Calabar Province, five Women's Co-credits in Owerri Province, five Maternity Co-operatives in Udi Division and one Maternity Co-operative in Orlu Division. The number of women travelling secretaries employed by the Calabar Provincial Co-operative Bank rose from two to five. One woman served on the Committee of the Co-operative Union of Eastern Nigeria and two women on the respective Committees of the Calabar Provincial Co-operative Bank and the Owerri Provincial Co-operative Bank. The Department still has no women staff.

46. *Maternity Co-operatives.*—These societies have no doubt continued to render useful services to rural communities but their future remains uncertain. Of the six societies, five are in the Udi Division and one in Orlu Division. The Udi Societies have indicated their willingness to go into voluntary liquidation and to hand over to the area District Councils but the latter have been unable to accept responsibility owing to lack of funds. The following comparative figures illustrate the static position of the societies:—

| *Year ended* | *Societies* | *Membership* | *Income* £ | *Expenditure* £ | *Deliveries* | *Fatalities* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 31–3–54 ... | 6 | 5,443 | 1,063 | 861 | 773 | 14 |
| 31–3–55 ... | 6 | 5,536 | 1,200 | 1,158 | 974 | 26 |
| 31–3–56 ... | 6 | 5,116 | 1,171 | 1,242 | 1,137 | 10 |
| 31–3–57 ... | 6 | 5,248 | 1,043 | 1,365 | 1,060 | 19 |

## PART IX

### Other Societies

47. *Farming.*—Fifteen Co-credits made small investments, totalling £845; in pal groves for joint exploitation by members. Twenty-one other societies pursued farmin activities. The Ugep Lokani Co-operative Farming Society (Obubra Division) th oldest Co-farm could realise only £1 13s 4d from the sale of farm crops. It cultivat about six acres of land and had planted 1,200 palm seedlings. A neighbouring Societ the Ijiman Town Ugep Co-operative Palm Plantation Society realised £10 from th sale of palm fruits and planted 500 palm seedlings in its fourteen-acre holding. Th Nando Group Farmers Co-operative Society (Onitsha Division) realised £3 from the sa of farm crops and had planted 700 palm seedlings in its fifty-six acre leasehold. Th Nguru Group Farmers' Co-operative Society (Nsukka Division) retained its 20 ac holding and planted 2,600 cashews but makes little progress and appears to be moribun The Nike Co-operative Farmers Society owns 166 acres and realised £15 from the sa of farm crops. It had planted 600 palm seedlings, 200 cashews, and ten citrus tree The Umuakeje Family Co-operative Farming Society (Orlu Division) registered January, 1957, owns twenty-two acres and intends to cultivate palms, cashew and possib cocoa. In Awka Division the Aguata Farmers Co-operative Society had planted 1,20 palm seedlings but when fire destroyed the plantation the Society collapsed and is no facing liquidation. In Onitsha Division, the Ikenga Awkuzu Farmers Co-operati Society realised £22 from the sale of yams and cassava while the palm plot owned b the Eastern Northern Niger District Farmers Co-operative Society yielded no mo than £2. Three Societies, Igga (Nsukka Division), Ogboji (Awka Division) and Igb (Afikpo Division) have concentrated on rice farming and hope later to process pado and market rice. The remaining eight Farmers Co-operatives: Uzuakoli Imen (Bende Division), Igbariam (Ontisha), Ohafia (Bende), Umuaro Emerienwe (Owerr Etiti (Okigwi), Njikoka (Awka), Amokwe Item (Bende), and Ebunwana Group (Afikp have been experimenting in group farming of both export and local food crops whi providing Co-credit facilities for their members.

48. *Schooling.*—The first ever School Co-operative, the Izi Nkwoagu Distri Council School Co-operative Savings Society (Abakaliki Division) was registered 17th September, 1957. At the time of registration, there were forty-four pupil-membe (all minors) and although teachers are eligible for membership, none has yet enrolled.

49. *Community Development.*—The peculiar problems of the Asutan Ekpe C operative Community Development League, the Pioneer Community Developme Society were referred to in paragraphs 77 to 80 of the 1955–56 report. Apart from t Pioneer Oil Mill, the other projects of the League remain undeveloped. At 31st Marc 1957, the League's Share Capital was £1,167 and Working Capital £7,448. 304 to of palm oil and 1,128 tons of palm kernels were handled and yielded a net surplus the League of £3,164. Another Community Development Society, the Ibesik Co-operative Development Association was registered on 25th September, 1956. W the initial membership at 200, Share Capital £863 and Working Capital £967, the ch objective is to own and manage a Pioneer Oil Mill. Much will depend upon the readin of the E.R.D.C. to concede the partnership scheme which has made the Oil Mill vent at Asutan Ekpe a success.

50. *Housing.*—In considering housing the building activities of Co-credits and C thrifts are of appreciable importance but only one additional purely housing soci was registered during the period under review to bring the number of housing societ in the Region to two. The new comer is the Eastern Co-operative Building Soci Limited established in Enugu in October, 1957 with a Capital of just over £500. T society aims at building residential houses for its members and has set about acquiri

land and sites for that purpose. The Old Paulines Co-operative Housing Society Limited registered in 1955 successfully weathered its first year of practical Co-operative Housing. With a membership of ninety-nine, capital rose from £3,000 to £6,000 making possible the issue of the first seven loans amounting to £5,000. Membership is now open to Ex-students of Associate Colleges of Anglican origin, to graduate teachers and trained teachers of any Denomination and to Civil Servants throughout the Eastern Region. Some eighteen salary earners and traders in Oron (Eket Division) have banded together into a savings group with the object of providing residential houses later for its members. At 31st March, 1957 accumulated savings amounted to £300. Although at present no more than a savings group, the society was registered as the Oron Co-operative Housing Society Limited.

51. *Secondaries.*—The following table summarises the various types of secondary organisations:—

| *Year ending* | *Banking* | *Marketing* | *Processing* | *Local Supervisory* | *Local Financing* | *Supply* | *C.U.E.N.* | *Total Secondaries* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 31–3–55 | 3 | 1 | — | 36 | — | 1 | 1 | 42 |
| 31–3–56 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 39 | — | — | 1 | 47 |
| 31–3–57 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 44 | 1 | — | 1 | 56 |

The Banking, Marketing and Processing Secondaries have already been reported upon in Part IV and Part VI. It now remains for something to be said about Local Supervisory Unions, Local Financing Unions and the Co-operative Union of Eastern Nigeria Limited.

52. *Local Supervisory Unions.*—Five more Unions were registered to bring the total to forty-four at 31st March, 1957. Of these, forty-two have a membership made up of Co-credits and two a membership made up of Co-thrifts. Distribution by Provinces is as follows: former Calabar thirty-one, Owerri seven, Rivers three, and Onitsha three. Unions outside Calabar Province were generally of a lower standard but effort is being made to improve the performances of others. Services rendered by Unions to affiliated members include education on Co-operative methods, supervision of loan transactions and the supply of stationery. In the former Calabar Province, the Registrar's prize for Local Unions was won by the Eket L.C.U.

53. *Local Financing Unions.*—The birth of this type of Union followed the demand of Co-operators for real village banks maintaining permanent offices, doing daily business, attracting deposits from members and non-members and generally encouraging multi-purpose co-operative activities. An agreed possible approach was for existing Local Supervisory Unions to amend their bye-laws and acquire financing powers. The first Local Financing Union was registered at Calabar in February, 1957. In August, 1957 the Eket Local Co-operative Union (Supervisory) amended its bye-laws and having acquired financing powers became known as the Eket Co-operative Credit Union Limited. It is expected that in the immediate future many local supervisory Unions will acquire financing powers in a similar way and become local financing Unions.

54. *Co-operative Union of Eastern Nigeria.*—Although the Union's income from Audit fees rose from £3,833 (last year) to £4,566, this was slightly offset by a decrease in Government subsidy from £3,000 (last year) to £2,800. The staff strength of twenty-eight comprises one Secretary, one education Secretary, twenty Auditors, one Book-keeper, one Store-keeper, one Clerk-typist, one Office boy, one Press Foreman, and one Press Compositor. Expenses on staff salaries and transport amounted to £5,930. The Union's Supply Branch had sales of £608 (£580 last year) but closed the 1956–57 financial year with a net loss of £195 while £56 was lost by the newly opened printing department.

The Union's main difficulty stems from weak administration and the Committee had hard to fight on in the face of steadily increasing administrative burden. A small net surplus of £395 was nevertheless registered at the close of the 1956–57 financial year.

55. The Arab "platen" Printing Machine donated to the Union by the International Co-operative Alliance was installed and put into production early in 1957. Mrs O. Umoren, a Vice-President of the Union attended an International Women's Seminar in France arranged by the U.N.E.S.C.O. The Seminar was to have taken place in the autumn of 1955 but had to be postponed until the summer of 1956. Another profitable invitation had been extended to the Union to attend the 20th Congress of International Co-operative Alliance to be held in Stockholm, Sweden in August, 1957. Mr U. Itauma, the President of the Union was duly nominated to attend this Conference. These manifestations of the material benefits of the Union's affiliation with the International Co-operative Alliance are as welcome as they are encouraging.

## PART X

### Education and Propaganda

56. *Staff Training.*—The Region sent sixteen men, including eleven Inspectors, four Auditors, and the C.U.E.N. Education Secretary for training to the six months' course which began in October, 1956 at the Ibadan Co-operative Staff Training School, Western Region. Our men did much better than at previous courses and one of our Inspectors actually passed out first of all students at the 1956–57 Course.

57. Three members of the Staff of Co-operative Department (two Inspectors and one Clerk) attended the Man O'War Bay Training Courses for 1956–57.

58. The Eastern Region sponsored three candidates (including one Co-operative Inspector) to the 1956–57 Oversea Course at the Co-operative College, Loughborough.

59. Training Courses for secretaries of Co-operative Societies were held as follows: At Uyo in August, 1956 for the former Calabar Province and attended by 141 students (including five females) and again in August, 1957 attended by ninety-two students (including five females). At Aba in January, 1957 for the former Owerri and Rivers Provinces and attended by forty-five students and again at Umuahia in July, 1957 attended by six students. At Ikom in August, 1956 for the former Ogoja and Onitsha Provinces and attended by twenty-eight students (including three newly recruited Inspectors) and again at Awka in March, 1957 attended by nine students.

60. Through the initiative of Mrs G. Umoren, a Vice-President of C.U.E.N. Limited, a Co-operative Women Leadership Course was held at the Women Occupational Training Centre at Aba during April, 1957. In all, twenty-four women drawn from different areas of the Region attended and received theoretical and practical instructions on Co-operative Principles and Methods. A two weeks' course was also held at Aba for the Managers and Secretaries of Secondary and Apex Co-operative Organisations.

61. *Committee Training.*—In the former Calabar Province courses for the training of Committee members were conducted for the Etoi, Oku, Oron, Ubium, and Eket Local Supervisory Unions. In addition short monthly refresher-courses were organised for the Unified Service Scheme field staff in all areas of the Province.

62. *Conferences of Staff.*—A Regional Staff Conference was held at Enugu in April, 1957. Provincial Staff Conferences attended by C.U.E.N. Auditors and staff of apex Organisations were held as follows: Calabar three, Owerri-Rivers two, and Onitsha-Ogoja two.

63. *Conferences of Societies.*—The third Eastern Co-operative Congress which included the business of the fourth Annual General Meeting of C.U.E.N. was held at Aba in June, 1956. Over 900 delegates from 768 societies attended. The fourth Congress and the fifth Annual General Meeting were similarly held at Uyo in June, 1957. The fourth Congress was opened and addressed by the Acting Premier of the Eastern Region, Hon. I. U. Akpabio. A feature of the Congress was the presence of Messrs Obisesan, O.B.E. and Babalola, two delegates from the Co-operative Union of Western Nigeria. The fourth Congress decided that in future Congresses will be held triennially.

64. In the former Calabar Province, the thirteenth Provincial Co-operative Conference which included the official opening of the Calabar Co-bank's new £10,000 Offices and Meeting Hall was held at Uyo in November, 1956 attended by over 2,000 co-operators. The new buildings were opened by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and the dedication ceremony performed by His Grace Bishop

Ekanem of the Roman Catholic Mission, Anua. The fourteenth Annual Provincial Conference was similarly held at Uyo in November, 1957. Both Conferences followed the pattern of previous Conferences and were no less successful.

65. *International Co-operative Day.*—Celebrations took place throughout the Region to commemorate the International Co-operative Day (the 34th) on 24th November, 1956 and (the 35th) on 30th November, 1957.

66. *Lectures and Talks.*—Several talks were given at schools, colleges, and at the Community Development Training Centre, Awgu by the staff of the Department. Broadcasting on Co-operative topics featured prominently during the months of October, November and December, 1957.

67. *Library.*—New books have continued to flow into the Library at the Regional Co-operative Office, Enugu. The Library now contains 500 books, booklets, and pamphlets in the Co-operative sections and 300 in the miscellaneous section.

68. *General.*—Mr J. U. Eka, M.B.E. on his return from a United Kingdom leave (September–December, 1956) circulated a memorandum based on his observations in the United Kingdom and France and aimed at stimulating further interest in consumer and Agricultural Co-operation in the Region.

## PART XI

### Registrations and Liquidations

69. Registrations, Winding-up Orders, and cancellation of registration certificates during the period covered by this report are shown below:—

| *Type of Society* | *Registered* | *Winding-up Order Issued* | *Liquidation completed and Registration Certificate cancelled* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Thrift and Credit ... | 106 | 50 | 32 |
| Thrift and Loan ... | 6 | 5 | — |
| Consumer ... ... | 1 | — | — |
| Marketing and Processing | 20 | 6 | 1 |
| Industries ... ... | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| Secondaries ... ... | 16 | 2 | — |
| | 153 | 65 | 34 |

70. Of the sixty-five Winding-up Orders, twenty-eight represent voluntary liquidations (nine of them for the purpose of amalgamation). The remaining thirty-seven were compulsory, after inquiry, and were due to bad management and/or insolvency. There were four appeals to the appropriate Minister under the Law against Winding-up Orders. Two of the appeals failed while two were finally allowed and the societies concerned permitted to put their affairs in order.

71. The high incidence of inquiries recorded last year has continued during the period under review. The following table shows the position:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Inquiries pending at 31–12–57 ... ... ... ... ... | 14 |
| Inquiries with decisions deferred from 1955–56 ... ... ... | 10 |
| Inquiries ordered between 1–4–56 and 31–12–57 ... ... ... | 74 |
| Total ... ... ... ... ... ... | 98 |
| Inquiries with decision deferred at 31–12–57 ... ... ... | 17 |
| Inquiries pending at 31–12–57 ... ... ... ... ... | 13 |
| Total ... ... ... ... ... ... | 30 |
| Inquiries decided between 1–4–56 and 31–12–57 ... ... ... | 68 |
| Inquiries resulting in Winding-up Order (compulsory) ... ... | 37 |
| Societies permitted to continue ... ... ... ... ... | 31 |

72. As in previous years, much valuable time of the Department's Staff was taken up by liquidations. Thirty-four liquidations were closed during the period under review and at 31st December, 1957, eighty-one were still in progress.

## PART XII

### Miscellaneous

73. *Audit.*—In an attempt to get up to date with audit an Assistant Registrar was placed full time on audit duties. The C.U.E.N.'s Senior Auditor prepares the audit programme and the Assistant Registrar, Audit deals with all audit reports and issues Registrar's Audit Comments. Owing to inadequacy of staff, auditing continues to lag behind. The position is as follows:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Societies overdue for audit at 31–3–56 ... ... ... ... | 81 |
| Societies due for audit 1–4–56 to 31–12–57 ... ... ... | 1,033 |
| | 1,114 |
| Societies audited 1–4–56 to 31–12–57 ... ... ... ... | 677 |
| Societies overdue for audit at 31–12–57 ... ... ... ... | 437 |

74. *Arbitrations.*—Arbitrations have continued at an alarmingly high level, 127 disputes having been handled during the period covered by this report. Awards totalling £2,800 were given. In nine arbitrations, references were withdrawn because the debts have already been satisfied. Two awards were annulled by the Registrar on appeal. In one case the Registrar revised an award on review of his own motion and in two cases on appeal. Difficulties experienced in the enforcement of awards in Magistrate Courts have continued unabated.

75. *Staff.*—Mr R. M. Leslie retired as Registrar on 6th May, 1957. Mr J. S. Pollock and Mr J. U. Eka, M.B.E., were appointed Registrar and Senior Assistant Registrar respectively with effect from the same date. Two Senior Inspectors were promoted Assistant Registrars: Mr T. O. Udoh with effect from 4th July, 1957 and Mr F. O. Ikekpeazu with effect from 1st August, 1957. Mr L. C. Osanakpo, Assistant Registrar left the Department on transfer to the Internal Revenue Department in June, 1957. Embodied in this report as Appendix B is a chart showing the organisation of the Co-operative Division of the Ministry of Commerce in the Eastern Region.

76. The Registrar attended a Conference of Registrars in Lagos in February, 1957. Throughout the period covered by this report the Registrar, served on the E.R.M.B.'s Minor Produce Representative Committee and on the Eastern Region Produce Inspection Advisory Committee.

77. *Visitor.*—Mr B. J. Surridge, C.M.G., O.B.E., Colonial Office Adviser on Co-operation made a brief tour of the Eastern Region in March during his 1957 visit to the Federation. In February, Mr Surridge had lectured at the Colonial Office Training Course for Senior Co-operative Officers at Buea, Southern Cameroons.

C. C. N. Chukuani
*for Registrar of Co-operative Societies*
*Eastern Region of Nigeria*

## STATISTICS OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN EASTERN REGION OF NIGERIA 31st MARCH, 1957

(FIGURES AT 31ST MARCH, 1956 IN BRACKETS)

| *Types of Society* | *Number* | *Member-ship* | *Paid-Up Shares* £ | *Savings and Deposits* £ | *Reserve Funds* £ | *Net Surplus* £ | *Total Funds* £ | *Loans Issued* *No.* | *Loans Issued* *Amount* £ | *Loans Repaid* *No.* | *Loans Repaid* *Amount* £ | *Loans Outstanding* *No.* | *Loans Outstanding* *Amount* £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PRIMARIES: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thrift and Credit .. .. | 908 | 32,578 | 84,321 | 244,809 | 17,449 | 18,059 | 378,367 | 28,773 | 404,797 | 27,316 | 343,896 | 22,835 | 343,185 |
| | (866) | (31,582) | (54,500) | (205,244) | (12,612) | (16,913) | (326,193) | (30,476) | (380,044) | (28,690) | (328,575) | (22,070) | (294,498) |
| Thrift and Loan .. .. | 55 | 2,921 | — | 140,706 | 2,164 | 3,163 | 118,001 | 1,298 | 29,723 | 1,444 | 20,261 | 1,015 | 13,933 |
| | (51) | (2,728) | (—) | (121,310) | (1,699) | (2,712) | (127,826) | (1,316) | (20,530) | (1,235) | (19,307) | (905) | (13,012) |
| Marketing and Processing .. | 37 | 2,411 | 7,847 | 3,820 | 1,923 | 633 | 20,741 | 311 | 3,742 | 33 | 304 | 269 | 3,388 |
| | (31) | (1,833) | (5,566) | (1,165) | (936) | (3,776) | (15,527) | (180) | (1,266) | (150) | (982) | (89) | (719) |
| Consumer and Supply .. | 7 | 3,384 | 1,488 | 380 | 179 | 48 | 2,645 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | (6) | (3,277) | (884) | (280) | (123) | (61) | (1,614) | (—) | (—) | (—) | (—) | (—) | (—) |
| Crafts and Industries .. | 5 | 109 | 713 | 128 | 78 | 149 | 1,890 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | (3) | (94) | (384) | (91) | (74) | (580 loss) | (1,046) | (—) | (—) | (—) | (—) | (—) | (—) |
| Community Development .. | 2 | 1,788 | 2,030 | — | 738 | 3,184 | 8,415 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | (1) | (1,998) | (793) | (—) | (4) | (2,935) | (5,650) | (—) | (—) | (—) | (—) | (—) | (—) |
| Farming .. .. .. | 6 | 203 | 462 | — | 69 | 7 | 628 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | (4) | (165) | (134) | (14) | (18) | (4) | (164) | (—) | (—) | (—) | (—) | (—) | (—) |
| Housing .. .. .. | 2 | 119 | 6,270 | 30 | 34 | 8 | 6,443 | 7 | 5,000 | — | 167 | 7 | 4,833 |
| | (1) | (103) | (3,916) | (—) | (—) | (134) | (4,051) | (—) | (—) | (—) | (—) | (—) | (—) |
| Maternities .. .. .. | 6 | 5,248 | 948 | — | 441 | 38 | 2,066 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | (6) | (5,116) | (1,005) | (—) | (402) | (155) | (2,319) | (—) | (—) | (—) | (—) | (—) | (—) |
| TOTAL, PRIMARIES .. .. | 1,028 | 48,717 | 104,079 | 389,873 | 23,076 | 25,289 | 539,196 | 30,989 | 443,262 | 28,793 | 364,628 | 24,126 | 565,339 |
| | (969) | (46,896) | (67,182) | (328,104) | (15,868) | (26,110) | (484,390) | (31,972) | (401,774) | (30,075) | (348,864) | (23,064) | (308,229) |
| SECONDARIES: | | *Societies* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Co-operative Union .. .. | 1 | 924 | 924 | 242 | 1,682 | 924 | 5,608 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | (1) | (849) | (849) | (44) | (353) | (1,070) | (3,686) | (—) | (—) | (—) | (—) | (—) | (—) |
| Banks .. .. .. .. | 3 | 939 | 27,846 | 56,982 | 10,637 | 203 | 116,538 | 299 | 64,450 | 223 | 27,410 | 312 | 45,754 |
| | (3) | (875) | (12,400) | (45,250) | (10,465) | (600) | (82,880) | (259) | (27,506) | (247) | (24,232) | (243) | (28,054) |
| Marketing and Processing Unions .. .. .. | 6 | 66 | 2,762 | 168 | 465 | 731 | 13,600 | 80 | 1,873 | 77 | 6,874 | 17 | 1,044 |
| | (3) | (17) | (971) | (180) | (196) | (1,040) | (6,142) | (10) | (476) | (1) | (40) | (9) | (436) |
| Marketing Apex .. .. | 1 | 11 | 2,192 | 329 | 180 | 3,967 | 50,023 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | (1) | (9) | (837) | (24) | (—) | (545) | (7,436) | (—) | (—) | (—) | (—) | (—) | (—) |
| Local Supervisory Unions .. | 45 | 979 | 11,849 | 312 | 970 | 627 | 16,795 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | (39) | (920) | (6,187) | (128) | (828) | (557) | (9,826) | (—) | (—) | (—) | (—) | (—) | (—) |
| TOTAL SECONDARIES .. | 56 | 2,919 | 45,573 | 58,033 | 13,934 | 6,452 | 202,564 | 379 | 66,323 | 300 | 34,284 | 329 | 46,798 |
| | (47) | (2,670) | (21,244) | (45,626) | (11,842) | (3,812) | (109,970) | (269) | (27,982) | (248) | (24,272) | (252) | (28,490) |
| GRAND TOTAL .. .. | 1,085 | 51,680 | 149,652 | 447,906 | 37,010 | 31,741 | 741,760 | 31,368 | 509,585 | 29,099 | 245,912 | 24,455 | 412,137 |
| | (1,016) | (46,896) | (88,426) | (373,730) | (22,710) | (29,922) | (594,360) | (32,241) | (376,318) | (30,323) | (373,136) | (23,316) | (336,719) |

CHART OF ORGANISATION OF CO-OPERATIVE DIVISION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, EASTERN REGION OF NIGERIA

| *Regional Office* | *Provincial Offices* | *Sub-Offices* | *Field Staff* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Enugu*—Registrar<br>Senior Assistant Registrar,<br>Assistant Registrar, Audit | *Enugu*—P.A.R. Onitsha/Ogoja<br>*Uyo*—P.A.R. Calabar<br>*Aba*—P.A.R. Owerri/Rivers | *Uyo*—A.R.<br>*Calabar*—Senior Inspector<br>*Ikot Ekpene*—Senior Inspector<br>*Port Harcourt*—Senior Inspector<br>*Owerri*—Senior Inspector | Aba, Abak, Abakaliki, Afikpo, Awgu, Awka, Bori, Calabar, Eket, Enugu, Etinan, Ikom, Ikot Ekpene, Ikot Mbang, Port Harcourt, Ogoja, Okigwi, Opobo, Orlu, Oron, Owerri, Nsukka, Nung Udoe, Udi, Umuahia, Uyo. |