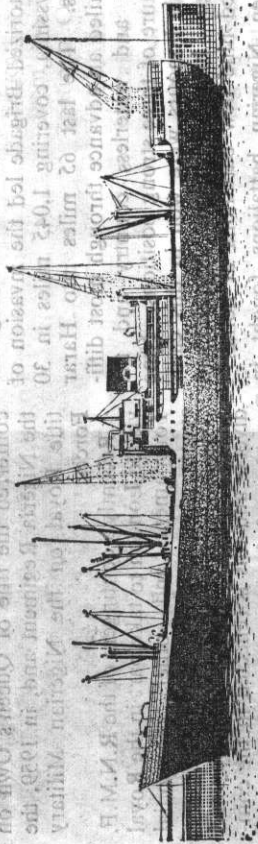


### What's in a name?

**BADAGRY PALM** is one of twelve new cargo liners built for Palm Line in the last five years. In common with many other ships of the fleet, for example Kano Palm, Ibadan Palm and Enugu Palm, she bears a Nigerian name. Palm Line vessels, being engaged exclusively in the West Africa trade, are a familiar sight in the ports of Nigeria; and in commissioning twelve of the finest and most modern ships in the British mercantile marine, Palm Line demonstrates confidence in the growing strength of Nigeria's economy.

With the coming of Independence to Nigeria, Palm Line wishes her well and fair and a prosperous voyage.

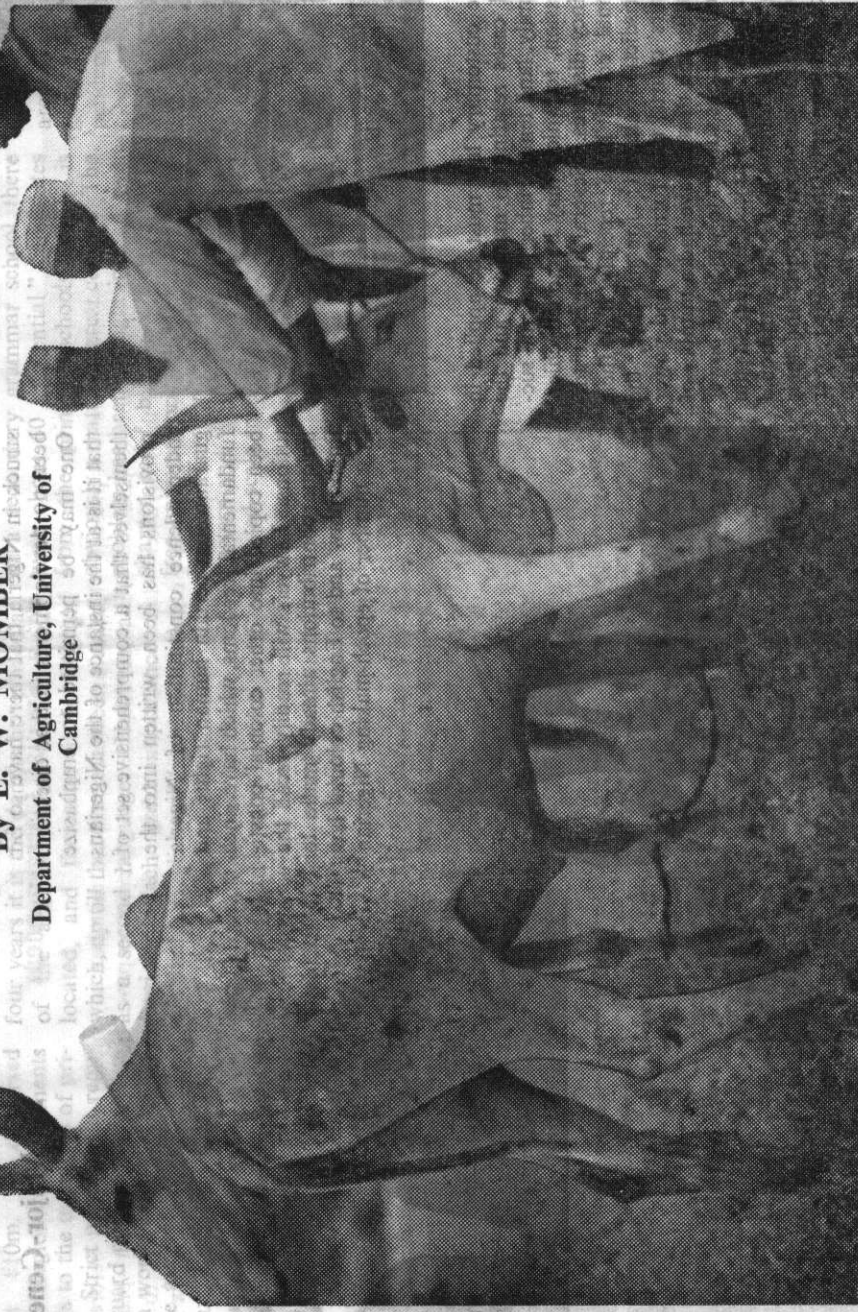


## PALM LINE

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# FARMERS BOUND BY TRADITION

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A cow being injected against trypanosomiasis. About 11,000 cattle have been treated in the Gombe emirate within the past three months.

**T**HE Federation of Nigeria is a territory with an area of 373,250 square miles—more than three times as great as that of Great Britain. It is bounded on the west and north by the French territories of Dahomey and Niger and on the east by the Trusteeship territory of the Cameroons and on the south by the Gulf of Guinea.

It has two main drainage systems, the most important being based on the Niger river, which flows south into the Gulf of Guinea 2,600 miles from its source in French territory. The second system flows north and east from the central plateau into the Yobe river, which finally loses itself in Lake Chad.

The climate varies from that typical of the wet tropics with a heavy rainfall of 50 to 100 in. or more and a short dry season, to the near-desert in the far north, where 20 in. or less of rain falls in a period of four months and dry, desiccating conditions exist for the rest of the year. The vegetation, and thus the pattern of the agriculture practised, conforms with these climatic changes. The agriculture of each region has some distinctive characteristics, but there are some general considerations that must be kept continuously in mind when assessing the development and the future of agriculture in Nigeria.

### TWO CONSIDERATIONS

The first of these is that the people are strongly bound by tradition. By tradition agriculture is to these people a way of life and not a business enterprise. This, coupled with communal land tenure, controls many attempts at indi-



Workmen carrying sacks of groundnuts lay the foundations of yet another pyramid at the railroad store at Kano.

blem is hampered by political considerations. A large proportion of Nigeria's export of 460,000 tons of palm kernels and 190,000 tons of palm oil come from the Eastern Region, and these products are to the East what cocoa is to the West, although at present prices it is not profitable.

The pattern of agriculture is similar to that in the Western Region but there is a greater accent on cassava, particularly in the overpopulated, over-cropped areas. This pressure on the land has driven many of its sons to seek their fortunes in the other regions as clerks, drivers, technicians and labourers, and there must be a large revenue to the region from wages sent home.

**Northern Region** This is the largest of the regions, with an area of over 700,000 tons, seed cotton (probably totalling between three and five million) could be integrated into a system of balanced farming, many problems would be solved and production greatly increased.

All the regions show this urgent need to improve the technical ability of their peasant farmers. They need every possible help not just to exploit the undoubted agricultural potential but to keep disaster at bay while the reorganization takes place.

been raised from 700 lb. of seed cotton an acre to over a ton during the past few years. This has been achieved by breeding, by proper cultural techniques, by spraying and by the use of fertilizers. These improvements cannot be taken piecemeal, for they are interdependent. Thus the use of fertilizers tends to increase susceptibility to insect attack and spraying is essential if the benefit is to be harvested; it will, however, be uneconomic to use either unless the conditions for growth are favourable. The average yield of peasant cotton is 200 lb. an acre. The goal is there but the road to it is stony and hard.

The northern part of this region is relatively free from the tsetse fly and the dreaded trypanosomiasis that it carries, and large herds of cattle are grazed in this area. The cattle are kept by nomadic Fulani herdsmen and so have relatively little influence on the farming picture. If but one third of these cattle (probably totalling between three and five million) could be integrated into a system of balanced farming, many problems would be solved and production greatly increased.

Ripe cocoa pods being dispatched from the Ina cocoa station to a government nursery. They will be distributed as seeds to farmers in the planting season. The potential yield of this crop has



these figures are probably not accurate. The picture presented is. Against this background let us take a