

# RAPID GROWTH OF NEW INDUSTRIES

By a Special Correspondent

industry; four large mills process 400,000 tons of nuts every year and have capacity for a considerable expansion when necessary.

The availability of a range of vegetable oils in Nigeria has naturally led to the establishment of a flourishing soap industry as yet unaffected by the advent of detergents.

early as 1925—one of the earliest manufacturing enterprises on the West Coast—and this plant now employs 500 people.

enough margarine for Nigeria's requirements. Lever Brothers (Nigeria) have recently established a new soap factory at Aba, a fast developing, industrial town in the Eastern Region, where there are two other soap factories.

smaller factory in Kano helps to supply the North. The industry produces soap, which is consumed locally, as well as glycerine for export.

**TIMBER AND FURNITURE**  
Nigeria owes the present importance of her timber trade largely to the shortages in Europe after the Second World War when traditional sources of supply were curtailed.

trade concentrated largely on felling and extraction only, but more recently mills have been established for further processing, so that during 1959, 2,250,000 cu. ft. of sawn lumber were exported.

1947 African Timber and Plywood started to build a plywood mill at Sapele in the Niger Delta. This is now the largest mill of its kind in Africa; the company exported plywood to the value of £950,000 last year.

During the past few years a number of mechanized furniture factories have been established, and a complete range of cabinet goods to suit all sectors of the market is now available from establishments in Lagos and other large towns.

Unpolstered furniture has been grown-



Agricultural produce supplies nine-tenths of the country's exports. Here pineapples are being packed at Abeokuta.

ONE of the things that most impressed the German explorer Barth when he visited Kano in 1851 was the development of industry in that city. He estimated that more than 60 per cent of Kano's exports consisted of locally woven cloth valued at £30,000, a huge sum at present values.

of Kano and Sokoto were not only important centres of trade but had also achieved fame for their industrial products. In addition to the textiles woven in Kano, hundreds of thousands of pairs of sandals were made for distribution throughout the Sudan, and the red goats of Sokoto provided the skins from which

was made the "Morocco" leather so justly famed throughout Europe. By the middle of the last century exports from Southern Nigeria were increasing and the first major export after the cessation of the slave trade was palm oil.

In the year Barth was in Kano some 30,000 tons of palm oil valued at nearly £1m. were exported from the oil rivers. Industries based on cotton and palm oil have maintained an important position in Nigeria's economy until the present day.

**TEXTILES**  
Nigeria's cotton for export and for

in popularity and can be obtained from several local manufacturers. The demand for better bedding has resulted in the establishment of two plants manufacturing interior-sprung mattresses and another producing foam rubber goods, as well as several small units making beds. The production of metal furniture for schools and the home is another recent development.

**FOOD AND BEVERAGES**  
In addition to the production of margarine mentioned above, other food factories include the Nigerian Canning Company, meat packers, in Kano, and a citrus cannery in Ibadan.

brewery was started in 1947 and now "Star", the local brew of Nigerian Breweries, enjoys great popularity and is made both in Lagos and Aba. During the past few years there has been a great increase in the output of mineral waters, and factories in Lagos, Ibadan, Aba, Kaduna, Kano and elsewhere produce the familiar internationally advertised products.

**TOBACCO**  
From small beginnings in the thirties, a flourishing industry has been developed by the Nigerian Tobacco Company, a subsidiary of the British

American Tobacco Company. Factories are now manufacturing cigarettes in Zaria, Lagos and Port Harcourt and are using a large proportion of leaf grown by local farmers under the company's guidance.

this industry can be judged from the fact that the company contributed over £6m. to the revenue last year.

**ENGINEERING AND METALS**  
The lighting of Lagos streets by electricity as early as 1896 and the opening of the railway in 1901 led to the establishment of the first maintenance workshops in the very early years of the cen-

Workmen filling a hopper at a plastics factory at Nipol.

from the largest to the smallest, and for the development of those already established. With a population of over 35 millions and untold natural wealth, Nigeria welcomes capital and technicians from abroad and deserves the attention of all forward-thinking industrialists, who are promised all possible help in the execution of their plans.

What prospects does the future hold? In recent months the Federal Government has invited a company to establish a flour mill in the Lagos area. This will at first use wheat imported from America; but later it is hoped that it will be possible to use grain produced within Nigeria, and it may prove possible to grow wheat specially for this purpose.

other plastic goods, stationery for office

shops in Nigeria until a relatively short time ago. The changes of the past few years have been great and most significant. Crittall-Hope Nigeria, near Lagos, and Williams and Williams in Port Harcourt produce metal doors and windows. Dorman Long have joined with local interests to make building frames, bulk storage tanks and other steelwork in Lagos.

Aluminium roofing sheets are being produced in Port Harcourt and aluminium household utensils are available from plants in Lagos and Kano.

Electro plating facilities are now installed in a new works in Kano. Raleigh bicycles are being assembled in three factories and motor lorries and mini-buses at Lagos. The biggest plant at present operating is that owned by United Africa Company of Nigeria where the complete assembly of Bedford trucks is carried out.

The Metal Box Company has recently announced plans for a tin plant near Lagos, and this development is eagerly awaited by a number of other industries.

**CEMENT**  
The Nigerian Cement Company started production in 1958 near Enugu and met with immediate success. The initial capacity of 100,000 tons a year is now being doubled.

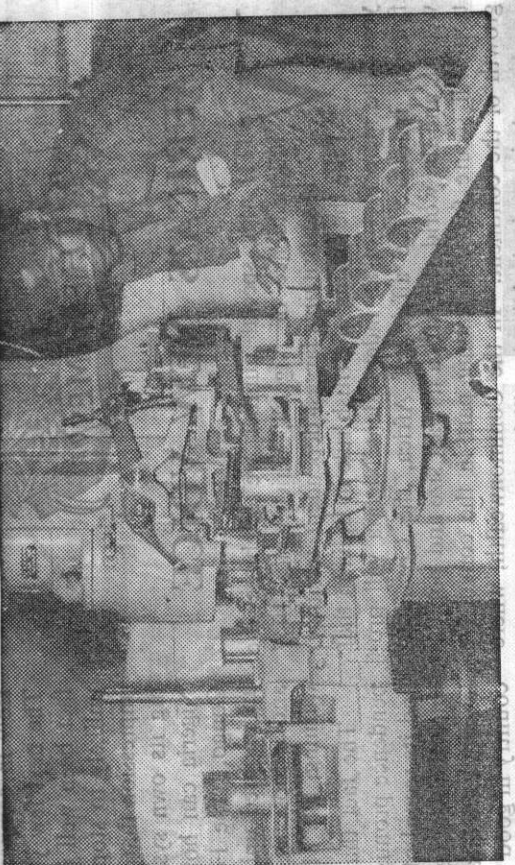
A second mill, which will also produce 200,000 tons a year, will be opened by the West African Portland Cement Company near Abokuta very soon. Pre-stressed concrete articles are made near Abokuta, and a large factory for the production of asbestos cement products is nearing completion near Lagos.

**OTHER INDUSTRIES**  
Other industrial units supply perfumes, rubber shoes, plastic water pipe and cosmetics, sugar confectionery, and other plastic goods, stationery for office

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An operator at the Lafai canning factory checking cans of juice as they come off the assembly line.

and school, pottery and earthenware. The waste for cattle from flour milling umbrellas, underwear, floor polish, which enable the meat industry to expand profitably and should result in cheaper infant food, carbon dioxide, oxygen and acetylene gases and terrazzo tiles. There are tyre retreading plants in the southern part of the Federation. A new large textile mill is being built near Lagos. A glass factory to produce bottles, jars and similar containers will, it is hoped, soon be started in the east and a re-rolling mill will convert iron and steel scrap into bars and light sections.

Arrangements are in hand to erect tin smelters on the Plateau to process tin concentrates. This brief survey will give some indication of the rapid growth of industry in Nigeria in recent years and show that there is scope for many new industries.

to the area in which it is available. Plans for an oil refinery are under discussion with the Government and there is little doubt that the advantages to Nigeria of her successful exploitation of her deposits of mineral oil will be great and far-reaching.

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An inspector checks bags of cotton before they are finally packed.



A tobacco field in the Western Region, where growing conditions are especially good.

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