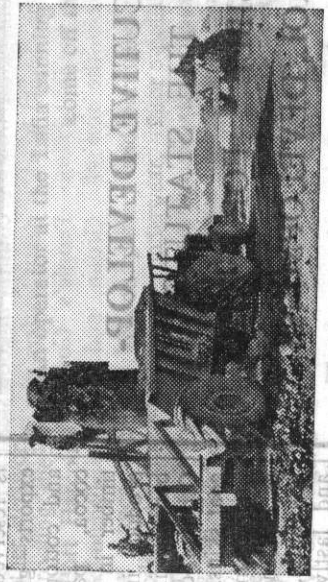


A ship takes on a cargo of ground-nuts at Port Harcourt in the Eastern Region.



New roads and railways link the interior with the sea. Left to right: The motor vessel Apapa leaving the wharf at Apapa. A bridge across the Niger at Jebba. Earth being carried off by dumpers for the minerals to be extracted.



A bridge across the Niger at Jebba. The new road from Benin to Calabar in Eastern Nigeria.



WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN 50 YEARS

By ERNEST IKOLI

PEOPLE do not believe in miracles these days; but the story of Nigeria in the last half-century is certainly the story of a miracle. Those of us Nigerians who belong to an earlier generation feel we are living now in a world entirely different from the one we knew in our childhood. And it has all happened in such a short space of time.

It should not be forgotten that there was no such country as Nigeria as we know it at the beginning of this century. Lady Lugard described it in her book as a mere "geographical expression". Many years had to pass before the different parts were welded together to form the grand mosaic that is known today as Nigeria. My memory takes me back to some of the more important events that took place in my youthful days. For instance, there was the greatest excitement in my village when news filtered through that a British colonel at the head of a unit of Hausa military forces had marched into Arochuku from old Calabar and destroyed the notorious "Long Juju", and sent its crafty priests flying. The news was at first received with some incredulity because people could hardly believe that there was anything on earth that could rival the power of the "Long Juju". The priests of the cult had for long years kept that vast belt of country between the Cross River and the

at the end of the ship's derricks before reaching the boat below. The process was repeated on reaching the other vessel as the unlucky passengers were hauled on board. As a young man I travelled more than once in and out of Lagos in this manner, and the experience was a nightmare. It was then the only available means of leaving or coming into Lagos, whereas today those who wish to travel by ship have only to get to the quayside at Apapa where a ship is moored alongside and walk on board. Or they can go to Ikeja airport, about nine miles outside Lagos, and take an aircraft to anywhere in the world. The first time one was seen in Lagos was in 1926 when three Spanish seaplanes alighted there on their journey from Spain to Fernando Po.

I have known a time when it took three or four days to travel from Lagos to Abeokuta, only 60 miles away. Now one can motor to Abeokuta in an hour and a half or less. Travelling to Kano was like going to the end of the world, and took many months. Now it is a matter of about three hours to fly from Lagos to this old city in Northern Nigeria which today boasts one of the most modern airfields in the world.

remove the capital to the north. After much opposition the idea was abandoned and Lagos remained the capital. Enugu, now capital of Eastern Nigeria, is one of the new towns. It owes its existence to the discovery of coal near by. Some of the older towns like Lagos and Ibadan have almost ceased to be shanty towns and are taking on the look of modern cities.

The first time I saw electric light was when I arrived at Lagos in 1906. It was the only town in the whole country that enjoyed such an amenity then. Electric street lighting or home lighting is quite a new thing and even now supply is limited to some of the larger towns. The only light people had at night was moonlight or the dim flickering flame of a dirty and evil-smelling palm oil lamp.

Less than 50 years ago, ocean-going ships could not enter Lagos because of the sand bar at the mouth of the lagoon. The ships had to stay outside and passengers were transferred into what were known as branch boats, vessels of a shallower draft. This was a very hazardous operation. The two ships would be several yards apart in the open sea, and passengers were carried from one vessel to the other by a special type of boat known as an Acra canoe, manned by paddlers. The passengers were lowered into the boats in mammy chairs, a kind of wooden tub attached to wire ropes, which usually took about four people at a time. For 10 uncomfortable minutes, sometimes longer, the mammy chair and its occupants dangled in the air

the slaves suffered the most horrible cruelty and degradation at the hands of their owners. I witnessed as a boy the repugnant spectacle of two wives placed in stocks and left for a day under the tropical sun for gigantic exercise. I wonder how many powers of tiel offence. Gradually the other countries in the world can match this picture.

election of members for the Federal Parliament of the country was held. Nine million voters, men and women, except the Northern Region where women are not yet enfranchised, took part in this gigantic exercise. I wonder how many other countries in the world can match this picture.

proclamation abolishing domestic slavery, the system persisted. Very often the slaves suffered the most horrible cruelty and degradation at the hands of their owners. I witnessed as a boy the repugnant spectacle of two wives placed in stocks and left for a day under the tropical sun for gigantic exercise. I wonder how many other countries in the world can match this picture.

THE FIRST ROAD

It is difficult to believe that the first 22-mile stretch of road built in Southern Nigeria was opened in 1906. It linked Iru on the banks of the Cross River with Ikot-Ekpene in the Ibibio country. The occasion was celebrated by the then

MUSHROOM GROWTH

New towns have sprung up overnight in what was formerly wilderness. Port Harcourt is now a flourishing town and the second largest port in Nigeria. It is built on a site that up to 1906 was pest-ridden jungle. Kaduna was created by Lugard, who intended it to be the capital of United Nigeria. This soldier-administrator did not make a secret of his dislike for Lagos and wanted to

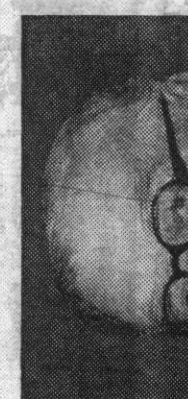
THREE WISE MEN

LEADERSHIP, they say, comes from appearance, exceptional intellectual appearance, exceptional intellectual

THREE WISE MEN

By A Special Correspondent

Only the future can tell whether he was right; but present events in the Congo give the presumption that he was. Finally, the fact that Nigeria progressed towards self-government without bloodshed and violence must be placed largely to his credit. The Enugu episode



Lugard Memorial Hall at Kaduna, the city Lugard hoped to make the capital of United Nigeria.