ACHIEVEMENTS IN SIERRA LEONE
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Produced for INDEPENDENCE DAY
27th APRIL, 1961

To President Kennedy
from William N. Telford
Representative of Sierra Leone
April 27, 1961.

Published by the Department of Information, Sierra Leone, and printed in England by Brown Knight & Truscott Ltd., London and Tonbridge.
FOREWORD

by

THE HONOURABLE THE PRIME MINISTER

SIR MILTON MARGAI

KT., M.B.E.

This booklet provides a brief account of some of our achievements in Sierra Leone in the political, economic, social and cultural fields.

It will be observed that our record is one of which we can be justifiably proud and rapid strides have been made in recent years.

As we all witness the birth of our new nation we should not forget, as we build the new on the old, that our continued stability depends on the co-operation of all; we the people of Sierra Leone and our genuine friends throughout the world.

I am grateful to those firms and organisations which have lent their support to this publication by way of advertising.

M.Margai
SIERRA LEONE'S FIRST GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Sir Maurice Dorman, K.C.M.G., was appointed Governor of Sierra Leone in 1956 at the age of 43 years when he made history by being the youngest Governor of a British Colony. Sir Maurice had previously served in Tanganyika, Malta, Palestine, Gold Coast (Ghana) and Trinidad.

OUR COVER

The design of the cover of this booklet incorporates the colours of our National Flag and the Sierra Leone Coat of Arms. On the back cover the words "Sierra Leone 1961" were made up of a fine selection of diamonds mined in January this year.

The Flag consists of three horizontal stripes of equal width, each of which have the following significance: leaf green for Sierra Leone's agriculture, natural resources and her mountains; white - for unity and justice; and cobalt blue - for the hope that Sierra Leone's unique natural harbour may make its contribution to peace throughout the world in the years which lie ahead.

The Armorial Bearings may briefly be described as follows:

THE ARMS: A lion in gold, an allusion to the name Sierra Leone and to Sierra Leone's links with Great Britain, on a green background, a colour representing the country's agriculture and natural resources. The serrated top to this background is the heraldic representation of our mountains. The two blue wavy lines represent the ocean, coastline and unique natural harbour. Three flaming torches symbolise Sierra Leone's contribution to West African educational development.

THE SUPPORTERS: On either side of the Arms is a lion in gold each supporting a palm tree, another symbol of our agricultural wealth: below, on a white scroll, is the national motto "Unity, Freedom, Justice".

SIERRA LEONE'S RECORD OF FIRSTS

Sierra Leone is the third country to achieve independence in the group formerly known as British West Africa—made up of Nigeria, Gold Coast (Ghana), Sierra Leone and Gambia—yet she has an enviable record of firsts. Sierra Leone, which earned the reputation of being 'The Athens of West Africa', was, for over a century, the only territory in West Africa which had an institution of higher education. This institution, founded in 1827, produced the leadership in West Africa for many years and even today some of the alumni of Fourah Bay College, the University College of Sierra Leone, are to be found holding high positions of responsibility in the Federation of Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Gambia.

The first West African postage stamp was issued in Sierra Leone on 21st September, 1859. The Sierra Leone Railway, which was established in 1898, was the first railway in West Africa. The Freetown City Council is the oldest municipality in Africa and never was a city founded on brighter ideals than Freetown. A Sierra Leonian was the first African to be appointed Principal of a University College in the Commonwealth.

To continue the catalogue of firsts, it is interesting to note that Sierra Leone also produced the first African Bishop of modern times in the person of the late Bishop Samuel Adai Crowther; the first African to be knighted was the late Sir Samuel Lewis—a distinguished Sierra Leonean lawyer. Saint Charles' Church, built at Regent Village, was the first stone church to be constructed in West Africa. Sierra Leone was the pioneer in West African journalism and produced the first newspaper in West Africa. The year 1934 marked the introduction of the first broadcasting relay service in West Africa and this was also established here. As recently as 1957 a Sierra Leonian was elected Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge, thus becoming the first African to be elected to a Fellowship in Oxford or Cambridge.

Sierra Leone pioneered in the field of Medicine. The first African to become an Apothecary was Macaulay Wilson, in 1806. Under the Medical Act of 1858, the first Africans to hold registrable certificates were
Dr. W. Broughton Davies (M.D., St. Andrews 1858) and Dr. Africanus Beale Horton (M.D., Edinburgh, 1859); the latter being the first African to hold a Commission in the British Army. Dr. Robert Smith was the first African to become a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, in 1871.

The first African girl to gain the Diploma of the A.R.C.A. was Miss Kathleen Easmon (1914).

The first Sierra Leonian to be called to the Bar was Mr. Francis Smith, who in turn became the first African Chief Justice of Gambia and, later, Puisne Judge in the Gold Coast.

The first boys and girls secondary schools in West Africa were established in Sierra Leone and known as the C.M.S. Grammar and Annie Walsh Memorial Schools respectively. The name of the former has now been changed to the Sierra Leone Grammar School. Also the first Agricultural College to be established in West Africa was the S.B. Thomas Agricultural College at Mabang, Sierra Leone.

Sierra Leone still bears the striking beauty which impressed the men sent out by Henry the Navigator to explore the coast of Africa over 500 years ago. Of all the territories in West Africa which were formerly under Britain's administration, Sierra Leone is the most beautiful, with its magnificent white sandy beaches, forest-clad mountain slopes and shining rivers.

The greatest attraction of Sierra Leone to the tourist is undoubtedly her beaches, and in particular those between Freetown and Kent on the west coast of the peninsula and on the coastline between Shenge and Sulima. There are long stretches of clean sand and in the background well timbered hills rising from the coast. The bathing is excellent and only on a few beaches does one find the heavy surf experienced elsewhere on the West Coast.

Sea fishing is a potential attraction which is not yet organised for tourists. The harbour at Freetown is the finest natural harbour in the whole of Africa and is impressive both on account of its size and because of the scenery, the whole of the west side being dominated by the steep range of hills rising immediately behind the capital itself. Inland there is a variety of scenery, some of it of great natural beauty, with two peaks in the north east rising to over 6,000 feet.

The population of Sierra Leone is estimated at over 2½ million and one of the priorities on the Government programme is a census on modern lines—the first in the history of the country.

The climate apart from four months of heavy rain offers unlimited sunshine and as the rainy season lasts from May to October, the sun is available throughout the European and North American winters. During the months of December, January and February, Sierra Leone experiences one of the most delightful seasons when the cool Harmattan wind blows from the north east.

There is one first-class hotel in Freetown which was opened in December, 1960. Designed on modern lines, the five-storey Paramount hotel contains 48 bedrooms, each of which is air-conditioned and has its own private bathroom and toilet. There are restaurant and bar facilities and accommodation for business meetings and private parties.

The country enjoys peace and stability. The Government encourages foreign investors, especially those who welcome Sierra Leonean participation and provide training facilities for local employees. This policy has yielded good results and foreign investors have demonstrated their confidence in the country's stability.

For example, the Sierra Leone Development Company made a gift of £25,000 towards the development of the Engineering Department at Fourah Bay College—The University College of Sierra Leone. To mark Sierra Leone's independence, the Sierra Leone Selection Trust have built and donated a Town Hall for the inhabitants of Koidu Town and a school building for the children of Tongo, in the South-Eastern Province. These mining companies have also provided modern hospitals, apprenticeship schemes with up-to-date training workshops and comprehensive recreational facilities and commercial firms have offered scholarships to Sierra Leoneans to study at Fourah Bay College—The University College of Sierra Leone.

One oil company has recently constructed a new bulk oil installation at Kissy, three miles from Freetown, at a cost of over £100,000, designed to meet the country's future demands in aviation, motor and domestic fuel. The four oil companies operating in Sierra Leone: Shell, Mobil Oil, B.P. and Texaco, are providing the country with a network of modern petrol stations.
The Government has given high priority to the development of education and the rate of expansion has been accelerated through the generous financial contributions made by the United Kingdom Government. Very satisfactory progress has been made in the secondary schools' building and re-housing programme. There has been outstanding progress in the field of secondary education. In every district in the Provinces there is at least one secondary school and there are 13 in the Freetown area. In a newly independent country like Sierra Leone, secondary schools have a vital part to play and every effort is being made by Government to ensure that all secondary schools in the country are adequately equipped with modern buildings, teaching apparatus and trained staff. It is also proposed to encourage the development of sixth forms in all secondary schools.

Equally so, in order to maintain a progressive continuity in our educational programme there has been an expansion in primary education. Funds provided under Colonial Development and Welfare schemes and from Government sources have been wisely utilised for building schools and improving the quality of the content of education.

The various Missions which have made an outstanding contribution to the development of education at all levels continue to play an important part in all areas of the country.

Detailed planning has also been undertaken for a new teacher training college in the Freetown area and the re-housing of two trade training centres in the Northern Province. The Teacher Training Department has been re-located from Fourah Bay College—The University College of Sierra Leone—and this gives more space to students pursuing graduate courses and provides a fine opportunity for expanding teacher training. It is intended that the Freetown Training College should develop specialist courses; it is also proposed that the training college at Magburaka should be exclusively for men and another for women will be built in the Provinces. Persistent efforts are being made to raise the standards in all training colleges in the country.

In the field of technical education, progress is also being made. Already established are two technical institutes—one in the Freetown area and another in Kenema. It is planned to establish a trade centre and, in time, it is hoped that the technical institutes will provide courses at sub-professional level and that they might form the nucleus of the College of Arts, Science and Technology. Students at the technical institutes are taking various overseas examinations such as those of the Institute of City and Guilds.

At the apex of the educational triangle in Sierra Leone, stands Fourah Bay College which has now developed into the University College of Sierra Leone under a Royal Charter. This University College which has received Colonial Development and Welfare grants totalling over £2,000,000 comprises the faculties of arts, economic studies, theology, pure science, applied science and, in addition, it has a Department of Extra-Mural studies and a Post-Graduate Education Department. The building programme of the University College of Sierra Leone, which is a part of the University of Durham, is forging ahead and it is expected that by the middle of 1962 Mount Aureol, on which the College stands, would have been transformed into a modern campus with buildings befitting the dignity of such an institution.
AGRICULTURE

In order of value, Sierra Leone's principal agricultural exports are: palm kernels, coffee, cocoa and piaassava.

The Government of Sierra Leone, through its Department of Agriculture, encourages the planting of permanent tree crops such as oil palms. Indeed, the expansion of the exports of palm products is one of the major objectives of the Government's agricultural policy and this involves establishing plantations of improved varieties of oil palm. About 100,000 oil palm seedlings are distributed annually and the main oil palm nursery is at Njala.

In February, 1961, the Ministry of Natural Resources launched an 'Economic Tree Scheme' under which the Department of Agriculture will train farm demonstrators from every district on specialised lines, including nursery siting and the management of...
Improved oil palms produce better fruit.

A plant pathologist at work. (Shell photo)

MINING

Sierra Leone's mining industry makes an important contribution to revenue and the value of minerals exported in 1960 reached the record figure of £19,500,000.

Diamonds are mined by the Sierra Leone Selection Trust; iron ore by the Sierra Leone Development Company and chromite by the Sierra Leone Chrome Mining Company. The Consolidated Zinc Corporation, in partnership with the Columbia Southern Chemicals Corporation, have been carrying out reconnaissance drilling to determine the extent of alluvial concentrations of the titanium bearing minerals—rutile and ilmenite. In one deposit near Gbangama in the Imperi Chiefsdom of Bonthe District, upwards of 1.5 million tons of alluvial rutile have been proved.

Other minerals known to occur in Sierra Leone include bauxite, columbite and ilmenite, pyrochlore, gold, platinum, monazite, corundum, cassiterite, tale and vermiculite. Nepheline syenite rock occurs in the Tunkia Chiefsdom of Kenema District and it is suitable for use in the ceramic and glass industries.

Molybdenum, a metal used mainly for strengthening steel but also in the electronics industry and in atomic plants, exists as Molybdenite in several parts of Sierra Leone.

The Sierra Leone Selection Trust first commenced operations in 1934 on an exclusive lease in the South-Eastern Province. Following the introduction of the Alluvial Diamond Mining Scheme, the leased area held by the Sierra Leone Selection Trust was reduced to about 500 square miles and the Company received compensation of £1½ million from the Government for the surrender of most of its overall rights to diamonds in the country.

In 1960 the Sierra Leone Selection Trust exported 746,534 carats provisionally valued at £4,357,781 and under the Alluvial Diamond Mining Scheme, 1,215,611 carats valued at £10,913,883 were exported. These impressive figures of diamond exports have only been made possible because of measures taken by the Sierra Leone Government to combat illicit activities in diamond mining and dealing. The total legal exports of diamonds for 1960 amounted to over £15,000,000, which is a record.

and selection of suitable plantation land. The scheme has been promoted by the Prime Minister who hopes that each taxpayer will plant at least ten economic trees every year.

Coffee is rapidly developing into an important export crop and considerable areas have been planted in recent years throughout the country. In November, 1960, £75,000 worth of coffee was exported. A research programme in rice breeding and the study of rice soils is being carried out at the West African Rice Research Station at Rokupa. There has been a greater yield in rice production as a result of the introduction of mechanical cultivation methods. A thriving poultry industry has been established with experimental farms at Newton and Njala. The possibility of establishing banana plantations is being investigated by commercial concerns. At Lumley and Regent, near Freetown, there are horticultural stations.

The Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board is responsible for the marketing of the main agricultural exports. The Board has also developed a number of pioneer oil mills.
The Diamond Corporation first started its activities in Sierra Leone in January, 1956. Illicit digging and smuggling had been increasing at an alarming rate up to that date, and in order to legalize the digging and to control smuggling, the Government set up the Alluvial Diamond Mining Scheme whereby Sierra Leoneans could apply for licences to dig in certain areas controlled by the Mines Department. Other licences were issued to enable people to deal in diamonds in those areas.

The Diamond Corporation formed a company called the Diamond Corporation Sierra Leone Limited (D.C.S.L.), in order to buy the diamonds produced by the diggers and dealers licensed under this scheme. Buying offices were opened in Bo and Kenema.

By mid-1959 this operation had met with only partial success and a new agreement was made by the Government with the Diamond Corporation which lead to the setting up of the Government Diamond Office in Kenema; this was opened by the Governor, Sir Maurice Dorman, on the 4th August, 1959. These arrangements have proved to be very successful.

One other facet of the Diamond Corporation's activities in Sierra Leone is in the field of prospecting, and D.C.S.L., through its associated companies, is assisting the Sierra Leone Government's Mining and Geological Departments in prospecting work in different parts of the country.

The Sierra Leone Development Company started shipping ore in 1933 and by the end of 1960 had totalled 25,000,000 tons. The total tonnage shipped in 1960 was 1,500,000 tons. Planning is in hand to increase the output of the Marampa mines to fully 3 million tons per annum. This will involve major expansion at Pepel, the Company's loading port which, since 1933, has handled over 3,000 ships. Cargoes of up to 15,000 tons have been loaded at this port and the loading conveyors have a capacity of 2,000 tons per hour.

In the Tonkolili District, 80 miles further into the interior from Marampa, there are further iron ore deposits and it is planned to extract a further 3.6 million tons per annum from this area. Land for the railway extension from Marampa to Tonkolili has been acquired. There now remains the raising of the necessary capital, in conjunction with the long-term marketing of the ore.

It is expected that bauxite mining will be commenced during 1962 by the Swiss Aluminium Industry of Zurich. Bauxite, the ore of aluminium, was discovered early in 1960 in the Mokani Hills near to the boundary between the Dasse and Banta Chiefdoms of Moyamba District in the South-Western Province.
INDUSTRY

Although Sierra Leone is basically an agricultural country, industrial development is making progressive strides. The area Kissy-Wellington villages to the east of Freetown, is developing into an industrial zone. Already in operation are the Aureol Tobacco Factory, which manufactures cigarettes; the Sierra Leone Oxygen Factory, which produces oxygen, acetylene and carbon dioxide; the Nail Factory; and a Brewery which is under construction.

The fishing industry has also developed. The encouragement by Government of foreign firms and the benefits accrued from research carried out by the Government Fisheries Development and Research Unit at Kissy, which replaced the West African Fisheries Research Institute in October, 1957, are reflected in the increase in the tonnage and value of fish landings and the improvement in techniques.

During 1960 great shoals of tuna have been found in the Atlantic Ocean well outside territorial waters, but within easy reach of Freetown. Exploratory surveys undertaken by American and Japanese tuna clippers in the coastal waters have resulted in one American firm, the Van Camp Sea Food Company—the biggest fish canners in the United States—buying tuna fish from Japanese and Spanish clippers in Freetown. The landing and storage are carried out by an Italian firm, the Supermarket Limited, at Kissy, for ultimate shipment to the United States. Arrangements are being made for a cannery to be set up in Freetown which has the best natural harbour in West Africa. Thus, tins of tuna might one day bring a valuable income from the markets of the world. Indeed, the future of the fishing industry in Sierra Leone is tuna; it has a big potential.

A privately-owned concern—the Katema Sawmill Company—is turning out timber as well as pre-fabricated buildings from its factory at Panguma, not too far from the provincial district headquarters town of Kenema, in the South-Eastern Province of Sierra Leone. The company has already built camps of pre-fabricated wooden houses for workers of the Sierra Leone Selection Trust in the Tongu diamond fields and in Kono; also for Government Departments and other commercial firms. There is also a large private factory in Freetown turning out modern furniture and the Kenema Forest Industries, a branch of the Forestry Department, have a thriving factory. The latter concerns produced the furniture for the new Freetown hotel.

At work in a Kenema sawmill.

A furniture factory at Kenema. (Shell photo)

Cigarettes being manufactured near Freetown.
GOOD RECORD
IN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Sierra Leone has one of the best records in Africa as far as industrial relations are concerned. In conjunction with the trade unions, the chambers of commerce, the mining companies and other leading employers, the Labour Department has built up a comprehensive pattern of wage fixing machinery. There are four wages boards covering mining, maritime workers, the printing trade and agriculture and four joint industrial councils cater for artisans and general workers, transport workers, commercial workers, and port workers. Terms and conditions for teachers are negotiated through a joint committee. The Labour Department is also responsible for the compilation of retail prices indices.

Power house—Sierra Leone Development Company, Marampa. (Shell photo)

FINANCE

While suitable acknowledgments have been made in this publication to the financial assistance which this country has received, it ought to be stressed that Sierra Leone does not depend wholly on outside aid.

In fact, the development which has taken place solely by the country’s own efforts and financial resources, is staggering. Here it is necessary to note that development in Sierra Leone has been widespread and not limited to one or two areas.

The revenue of the country was only £1 million in 1919; twenty years later it remained unchanged and, in 1949, there was a rise to £21 million. But since Sierra Leoneans were given responsibility for the formulation and implementation of policy during the last decade, there has been a striking increase in revenue.

The Budget for 1959—the first to be presented by a Sierra Leonean, the Minister of Finance, Mr. M. S. Mustapha, was £13.6 million. No less than £25 million was spent on development projects and in the first five years the revenue doubled. Since that time there has been a steady rise. For example, Customs revenue for December, 1960, including Post Office receipts, was £531,342, as compared with £426,759 for December, 1959. Total receipts from 1st April to 31st December, 1960 amounted to £4,886,962. In the coming years, with the expansion of commerce and industry, the revenue will continue to increase.

Anything to declare?—A customs officer at work.

View of Freetown. (Shell photo)
The Development policy has three main objectives: to create generally conditions in which development will thrive; to undertake those public projects which are necessary; and to encourage, by all reasonable means, private activity and investment.

The economy at present rests on two main props—agriculture and mining. It is proposed to expand and improve agriculture, to encourage also the further development of mining and to make a start on some secondary industrial development which will form, in due course, a third main activity. The chief basic requirements for this programme are better transportation facilities, in particular better main roads; higher productivity in the sector of agriculture, producing crops for domestic consumption, land reclamation works, the establishment of plantations for some export crops; increased power supplies, water supplies, particularly for industrial development in the Freetown area, expanded telecommunications and improved facilities for training supervisory and managerial staff.

The importance of the Education and Health services to economic development is not under-estimated and every effort is being made to ensure continuous progress in these important services.

The Development Ordinance, 1960, provides for the granting of income tax and customs concessions to companies undertaking industrial or agricultural enterprises which are needed for the development of the country. The concessions are intended to help such companies during the early days of the enterprise and they provide for a five-year tax holiday during which the company's earnings from the enterprise are free from income tax. The five years dates from the day on which the undertaking starts to produce in marketable quantities. The freedom from income tax does not extend to dividends in the hands of individual shareholders, except in the case where profits are put by the company into a special reserve and are not distributed until five years after the end of the tax holiday. A company entitled to a tax holiday may, during the tax holiday, import free of duty articles required for the construction of factories and ancillary buildings.

To obtain these concessions, a company has to satisfy the Minister of Trade and Industry that it is entitled to a development certificate on the grounds that it is going to manufacture a product which is not being manufactured already in sufficient quantity in Sierra Leone or to carry on some other industrial activity which is not being carried on sufficiently in Sierra Leone.

The concessions are obtainable by companies only. They are not granted to individuals. In addition to the normal concessions under Part II of the Ordinance described above, there is provision under Part III for projects which may receive special concessions on account of their special importance to the economy. Part III would generally apply to very large-scale enterprises such as plantations, mines, etc.

The Development Ordinance covers those provisions for encouragement of new industry which are commonly known as Pioneer Industries concessions.
CULTURE AND TRADITIONS

The vitality of the culture and traditions of the people of Sierra Leone is reflected in their dances and music, arts and crafts and a comparatively small, but promising body of literature.

Indigenous dancing, singing and drumming in Sierra Leone are, to a large extent, a part of the activities of the country’s secret and traditional societies for men and women as the following examples will show.

The training received by members of the Wunde Society, a tribal secret society exclusive to the Mendes, includes traditional dancing in spectacular costumes, singing and drumming. The teachings of this society include civic duties and responsibilities, bravery and endurance.

The Sande or Bundu Society, an entirely women’s society which is widespread in Sierra Leone and operates through independent lodges, teaches its members dancing and singing and when the period of seclusion is over, the public exhibition of dancing and drumming always provides great excitement for many people.

The dancing of the Gola Society, which is a male society like the Porro, is basically of an acrobatic nature and is a display of physical strength and agility.

The arts and crafts of Sierra Leone are going through a period of renaissance with the recent formation of the Sierra Leone Arts and Crafts Society. This society has received assistance from the Government and other bodies and hopes to establish a centre with a display room, exhibition room and a teaching section. It will also contain a theatre for the development of the dances and drama of the country.

In the field of literature, Sierra Leone has a few authors whose works have achieved recognition overseas. Through the efforts of
the Vernacular Literature Bureau, a growing body of literature is being developed in the country’s vernaculars principally in Mende and Temne. A Sierra Leone Languages Society has recently been formed for the purpose of conducting research into and encouraging the development of Sierra Leone languages.

There has been a growing interest throughout the country in the art of the theatre and the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service is encouraging the growth of dramatic appreciation.

Wood carving, basket making, weaving and pottery are making a worthy contribution to the cultural development of the country and oil and water colour painting are gaining popularity among the young.

Happily, our Prime Minister, Sir Milton Margai, is a keen patron of the country’s arts and crafts, as well as a musician in his own right. This fact gives the assurance that Sierra Leone’s cultural progress will keep pace with political development.

COMMUNICATIONS

Hitherto the absence of good communications had been a deterrent to the economic development of Sierra Leone. Priority is now being given to the development of the road system with a view to accelerating travel and commercial activities. New diesel locomotives are in operation on the main line of the Sierra Leone Railway and over the past few years long sections of the track have been improved.

About 1,200 ships call each year at Freetown whose port has anchorage room for 240 ships of unrestricted draught. There are berths for three ships alongside the Queen Elizabeth II Quay. The Freetown Airport, Lungi, has also been reconstructed and it is hoped that a ferry service will be operating between the airport and Freetown by 1962.

There is a network of internal airways operated by Sierra Leone Airways and aerodromes have been established in the main centres in the Provinces.
HEALTH

The health services of Sierra Leone are expanding rapidly. In each of the twelve districts in the Provinces there is a hospital; one District, Port Loko, has two. Altogether there are twenty-six Government-aided hospitals in Sierra Leone; two hospitals owned by Mining Companies and four dispensaries established by Mining Companies. In addition, there are twenty-five health centres, fifteen Mission dispensaries and thirty-five treatment centres.

Within the last five years it has become necessary to expand each district hospital to include maternity services and each has a twelve-bed maternity ward. Specialist services are also expanding rapidly as more trained personnel are becoming available.

The Public Health Section of the Ministry of Health is responsible mainly for improving environmental sanitation including preventive medicine. The T.B. Sanatorium at Lakka is being extended and this has been made possible with money provided under the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund. Various campaigns are being waged against sleeping sickness, bilharzia, leprosy and yaws with assistance from the World Health Organisation. These endemic diseases are controlled by a field medical unit of the Government Medical Service—the Endemic Diseases Control Unit.

A Freetown hospital.

An operation in progress in a provincial hospital.
The problem of housing is universal. It is even more acute in newly independent countries. Realising this, the Government of Sierra Leone has taken prompt action to provide housing for the lower income group and to introduce measures of low-cost housing by which workers and other people could be properly housed and to place such houses in the vicinity of workers so that they will not have to travel far from their home.

One such scheme is now at Kissy near Cline Town area and it is being progressively developed to cater for all types of people who would form a community. It is proposed to establish similar low-cost housing schemes in the Provinces.

In order to meet the great need of re-developing the central area and other areas in Freetown, it is planned to introduce appropriate legislation and to encourage financial interests to invest in the re-development schemes. Under the re-development plan, provision is made for a broad zoning pattern and the improvement of existing roadlines and other means of communications. This will include slum areas which would have to be developed. Alternative accommodation will be provided for the inhabitants of such slum areas while the development scheme aimed at transforming these slum areas is being implemented.
Social Development in Sierra Leone is concerned with the social welfare of the people of the urban areas and the overall development of communities in the rural areas.

Broadly speaking the policy of the Department seeks to promote the well-being of all members of the Community, so that each may enjoy from youth to old age, as full a life as possible within the scope of their own Community.

Social Welfare services provide a measure of security for every man, woman and child in real need up to the level of living which the country can afford. The Department endeavours to prevent individuals from falling into delinquency or social mal-adjustment, and where they have done so, tries to rehabilitate them by restoring self-respect, self-confidence and self-reliance. The efforts of voluntary organisations are enlisted and encouraged in seeking to meet the aims of the Department.

In Sierra Leone today, like other parts of Africa, changes are taking place so rapidly that one has to almost wait with bated breath for the news every morning. The difficulty, however, is that social changes—changes in people's traditional ways of life, their customs, etc.—do not occur overnight or as the result of independence. They seem to travel on slower wheels and need lots of care in the process of development. The Social Development of Sierra Leone therefore seeks to give the necessary guidance to individuals and communities by providing the following measures: the probation service; welfare of the physically handicapped; work among women; welfare for children and youth; family case work—reconciliation; social and community centres; mass education; literacy campaigns and health and nutrition. Guidance, where necessary, is also given to local government bodies.

Justice and the Police

The administration of justice is carried out through the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone, the Magistrate's Courts, Juvenile Courts and Native Courts. The judiciary is independent of the Executive and at its head is the Chief Justice, Mr. Justice S. A. Benka-Coker—a Sierra Leonean.

The Sierra Leone Police Force, which was constituted in 1894, has offices and personnel throughout the country. The Force has made a marked contribution in helping to reduce illicit mining and dealing in diamonds.

Sierra Leone's Chief Justice,
Mr. Justice S. A. Benka-Coker, O.B.E.

Police recruits concentrate on first-aid instruction.
The defence of Sierra Leone is in the hands of a Ministry of External Affairs and Defence which came into being in May, 1960.

At the Sierra Leone Constitutional Conference which was held in London in March/April the same year, it was agreed between Her Majesty's Government and the Sierra Leone Government that a Defence Agreement providing for mutual co-operation in the field of defence should be negotiated, to be signed after independence. The Secretary of State for the Colonies assured the conference that a Defence Agreement was a matter for free negotiation between countries of equal status.

The Royal Sierra Leone Military Forces had the title of 'Royal' conferred on it by Her Majesty the Queen in October, 1959, when the Queen also graciously consented to become the forces Colonel-in-Chief.

The forces consist of the First Battalion of the Sierra Leone Regiment and other units.

The history of the Sierra Leone Regiment dates back to the year 1902 when it emerged as one of four military units making up the West African Frontier Force—the other units being those of Gambia, the Gold Coast (now Ghana), and Nigeria. The W.A.F.F. had the title of 'Royal' conferred on it in 1928.

For nearly 60 years the Sierra Leone Regiment played a distinguished part in the military history of West Africa and beyond. In both the World Wars of 1914-18 and 1939-45 the Regiment took part in successful campaigns carried out by the West Africa Frontier Force and campaigns in the Cameroons, Duala, North Kaladan, Arakan and Burma figure as battle honours on the colours of the Sierra Leone Regiment.

Following the disbanding of the Gambia Regiment in 1957, and the severing by the Ghana Army of its connections with the force in 1959, the Royal West African Frontier Force was dissolved in August, 1960, and replaced by the Royal Military Forces and the Royal Sierra Leone Military Forces.

Sierra Leone has a Naval Volunteer Force with officers and other ranks from many walks of life. Its members receive regular training both ashore and at sea in ships of Her Majesty's Navy.
AFRICANISATION

Consistent and rapid progress is being made in the field of Africanisation and a number of Sierra Leoneans are holding, with marked efficiency, policy and top ranking posts in the civil service. While the objective is to have a Civil Service fully manned by local people, the Government intends that the transition will be smooth and gradual if it is to retain an effective Civil Service to implement its policy at a time of stress, change, and rapid development. The Government is aware that Africanisation is a practical problem which it hopes to solve by steady application of policy in terms of actual facts. While remarkable progress has been achieved in Africanisation, an even faster advance lies ahead.

INFORMATION SERVICES

It is essential that the citizens in a democracy should be kept constantly informed of Government activities. In Sierra Leone this important service is operated through the Department of Information, the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service and the Press. Expansion of the Government's Information Services is in progress and everything is being done to keep the public informed about what Government is doing. With the achievement of independence, the task of the Information Services has become greater. It is proposed not only to keep the Sierra Leone public informed, but also to interpret Sierra Leone to the outside world through its information representatives who will be attached to the Sierra Leone Offices established in other countries. Already the Sierra Leone Government's Information Services have established close liaison and cordial relations with the overseas press and broadcasting services.

TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE

Sierra Leone's Constitutional story is one of peaceful evolution towards independence by democratic methods. Ever since the first elections were held in 1924, Sierra Leone has progressed step by step towards nationhood. The road was not altogether easy but, happily, it was not characterised by violence. It is of historical interest to note that there was a time when other West African countries like Nigeria, the Gold Coast and Gambia, were administered from Sierra Leone.

With the introduction of the Ministerial system in 1953, Sierra Leoneans, especially those in politics and the Civil Service, faced new opportunities of taking over considerable responsibilities for the efficient running of government. In 1954 Sir Milton Margai, our Prime Minister, was appointed Chief Minister later Leader of Government Business, then Premier and after the successful Constitutional Talks in London in April, 1960, he became the first Prime Minister. The Government, under Sir Milton's leadership, has demonstrated its stability as well as its adherence to democratic principles and practices.

Prior to the departure of the Sierra Leone delegates to the London Constitutional Talks, Sierra Leone created political history not only in West Africa but in many other former Colonial Territories when the four political parties, namely the Sierra Leone People's Party, the United Progressive Party, the Labour Party and the National Council of Sierra Leone, which contested the General Election in 1957, and the People's National
Found in a Sierra Leone Garden
Party which emerged in 1958, formed a United Front which culminated in a coalition government. This outstanding act of political statesmanship by Sir Milton Margai, was impelled by the desire to bring together all the country’s available brain-power and resources in tackling the major problems which would undoubtedly face any country emerging into independence. It is important to observe that the formation of a coalition government does not imply the annihilation of an opposition. On the contrary, the Prime Minister, Sir Milton Margai, emphasised in a nation-wide broadcast that the parties which had come together to form the United Front would retain their identity.

The rapid progress which Sierra Leone has made within the short period covering the Constitutional Talks in London and the attainment of independence on 27th April, 1961, provides ample proof of the wisdom underlying the formation of a United Front. The Sierra Leone Government attaches much importance to the development of local government and the progress made in this important field has been impressive. With the achievement of independence comes a single citizenship for Sierra Leone— and this marks the fulfilment of a long-felt need. In a message given by the Prime Minister on the 12th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights, he recalled that he and the delegates to the London Constitutional Talks asked for a guarantee on Human Rights to be written into the New Constitution for Sierra Leone. Sir Milton gave the assurance to his fellow Sierra Leoneans that the rights of all will continue to be protected by his Government and he called upon all Sierra Leoneans to respect the rights of others.

The children are always excited about something new—and they are the leaders of tomorrow.

Sierra Leone faces the future with confidence, and the assurance that she has many true friends in the democratic world who wish her well as she walks along the tortuous road of nationhood and are ready to assist her should such help become necessary. It is the expressed determination of the Government, chiefs and people of Sierra Leone, to make a success of independence and to do this they have been urged by the Prime Minister to work hard, to guard their integrity and respect law and order.

Sierra Leoneans have been made aware of the responsibilities which independence devolves upon them and of the gigantic tasks of reconstruction which lie ahead. They do not approach these problems with the braggart’s boast of ‘we are the masters now’. Rather, Sierra Leoneans feel that independence offers them the golden opportunity of making a concrete contribution towards world peace and the happiness of mankind.

Once the leading star in West Africa in almost all aspects of life, Sierra Leone for a while was outstripped by her neighbours. Now that she has awakened from sleep, she is all set, like the Phoenix, to rise out of the ashes of despair and become known in the world not as ‘Ancient and Loyal Sierra Leone’ but as Modern and Progressive Sierra Leone where democracy will prevail for all time.
IMPORTANT DATES

IN OUR HISTORY

1460 Pedro da Cintra, a Portuguese adventurer, described his voyage to, and named, 'Sierra Leone' - the land of the Lion Mountains.

1562 Sir John Hawkins, probably the first Englishman to visit the country, landed, on an expedition to obtain slaves.

1787 Following a decision to make the territory a home for freed, destitute slaves in England, Granville Sharpe, a leader of the slavery-abolition movement, sent out a group, who founded Freetown.

1790 The enterprise taken over by the Sierra Leone Company, and more settlers sent out.

1792 The first Governor sent to the territory.

1799 The Sierra Leone Company granted a royal charter and the Governor-in-Council given legislative powers: Freetown constituted a corporation with a mayor and aldermen.

1807 U.K. Parliament made slave trade illegal. Sierra Leone designated as a base from which to enforce the Act.

1808 Sierra Leone made a Crown Colony, with a governor appointed by the Crown ruling with an advisory Council. Arrival of the first cargo of slaves freed; followed by many others. These liberated Africans, or Creoles as they came to be called, settled mainly in Freetown.

1811 First unofficial member appointed to Advisory Council.

1827 The Church Missionary Society founded the college at Fourah Bay to train clergy.

1861 Sherbro Island and a strip of mainland taken over as part of the Colony.

1863 Advisory Council reconstituted a Legislative Council, and an Executive Council created.

1876 Fourah Bay College affiliated to Durham University.

1895 Frontier with French territory agreed.

1896 Protectorate established over the hinterland.

1911 Frontier with Liberia agreed.

1923 Unofficial membership of Legislative Council increased.

1924 New constitution came into operation, extending the jurisdiction of both Legislative and Executive Councils to the protectorate; first elections held.

1943 Two African unofficial members appointed to Executive Council.

1951 New constitution introduced creating an unofficial majority in the Legislative Council for the first time; Executive Council reconstituted with an unofficial majority.

1953 Six African Ministers appointed.

1954 Title of 'Chief Minister' accorded to leader of majority party in Legislative Council.

1956 Legislative Council redesignated House of Representatives, with increase in numbers of both elected and appointed members, and diminished official representation: franchise extended.

1958 Further constitutional advances which, in the main, provided for an all-African Executive Council and the disappearance of the official members from that Council and from the House of Representatives.

1960 In recognition of the declared goal of all the main political parties of early independence, a conference was held in London in April/May to discuss further constitutional changes. It was agreed that Sierra Leone should be granted independence on April 27, 1961 and that she would apply for membership of the British Commonwealth of Nations.
THE SIERRA LEONE CABINET

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The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
The Minister of Education
The Minister of Lands and Survey with responsibility for External Affairs and Defence.
The Minister of Communications
The Minister of Trade and Industry
The Minister of Works
The Minister Without Portfolio
The Minister of Health
The Minister of Mines and Labour
The Minister of Information and Broadcasting
The Minister Without Portfolio
The Minister of Natural Resources
The Minister of Social Welfare
The Minister of Housing and Country Planning
The Minister of State

The Hon. Sir Milton Margai, Kt., M.B.E.
The Hon. M. S. Mustapha
The Hon. H. E. B. John
The Hon. Dr. John Karefa-Smart
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The Hon. A. M. Margai
The Hon. G. Dickson Thomas
The Hon. C. B. Rogers-Wright
The Hon. R. G. O. King, M.B.E.

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Music by JOHN AKAR. Words by C. N. FYLE. Arranged by LOGIE E. WRIGHT.

Verse (2)
One with a faith that wisdom inspires
One with a zeal that never tires
Ever we seek to honour thy name
Ours is the labour, thine the fame
We pray that no harm on thy children may fall
That blessing and peace may descend on us all;
So may we serve thee ever alone
Land that we love, our Sierra Leone.

Verse (3)
Knowledge and truth our forefathers spread
Mighty the nations whom they led
Mighty they made thee, so too may we
Show forth the good that is ever in thee
We pledge our devotion, our strength and our might
Thy cause to defend and to stand for thy right
All that we have be ever thine own
Land that we love, our Sierra Leone.
SIERRA LEONE INDEPENDENCE 1961

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In recent years there has been a steady growth in the demand for petroleum products. Bunkering of ships calling at Freetown forms the major part of the trade; three out of every four ships bunkered at the port depend on Shell for their fuel. Shell is also strongly represented in the inland trade—which includes aviation fuels and lubricants for airlines flying from Lungi, Freetown's international airport; petrol, kerosene and industrial fuels of all kinds; bitumen for roads; and a variety of chemicals.

Bunkering facilities are established near the Queen Elizabeth Quay at Freetown; these are linked by two pipelines with storage tanks at Kissy. To supply the growing inland trade a new installation was completed at Kissy in 1960 at a cost of £136,000. Aviation fuels, petrol, kerosene and gas oil are stored in tanks with a total capacity of 10,000 tons. With rail wagon and road tanker loading facilities and automatic metering, the new installation is the most up-to-date in West Africa, and the main focal point for the distribution of Shell petroleum products throughout the country.

Thus equipped the new Shell company look forward to playing an important part in the provision of petroleum products to serve the growing needs of independent Sierra Leone in the years ahead.
SIERRA LEONE DEVELOPMENT CO. LTD

To the Prime Minister, Government
and People of Sierra Leone

From the Chairman, Directors and Management
of Delco

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of Independence and sincerest good wishes
for peace and happiness in the future.

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