

might never be published at all, or short articles which are of local rather than of world-wide interest. In this the Journal is attempting to do for Uganda what the *Sudan Notes and Records* has done and is doing for the Sudan; and the editors of the *Uganda Journal* have already set a high standard for themselves and their successors, which, if it can be maintained, will continue to make the Journal a valuable publication. The annual subscription is 10s.

(Communicated by MR. E. B. HADDON, the representative in Great Britain of the Uganda Literary and Scientific Society.)

*Vernacular Periodicals, No. 15, 'Northern Provinces News' ('Jarida')*

The *Northern Provinces News*, known locally in Arabic and Hausa as *Jarida* and published at Kaduna in Nigeria, is in itself evidence of the degree to which native communities in Africa can and do now co-operate in useful and progressive undertakings. Though printed at the Government printing office and edited in the Chief Commissioner's Secretariat, it is financed and distributed by the Native Administrations of the Northern Provinces of Nigeria, and the articles are almost entirely the work of Nigerians of these provinces literate in English or Arabic or one of the local vernacular languages. The contributions are collected by the local chiefs and forwarded, generally with translations, to the editor, who arranges their printing, where suitable. Commonly there is an English and an Arabic version and one in a local vernacular, most usually Hausa as the language of the majority of contributors and readers. The versions are printed in parallel columns. Arabic serves the 'mallams' of the older school who are literate in that language only, English the numerous non-African readers or foreigners from other parts of Africa, and Hausa or other vernacular the rapidly growing numbers who can read African languages in the Roman character.

The paper was first produced at the end of 1931, on the occasion in that year of the central conference at Kaduna of Emirs and other chiefs, who had keenly supported the experiment. It had been preceded by occasional 'news-sheets' in English only, giving items of local news, and cyclostyled. Another forerunner had been the broadsheet of illustrations with captions in Oriental languages known as *Al Hakika*, which had some circulation in Nigeria during the war. Following that example excellent photographs of Nigerian interest are a feature of the *Jarida*.

The paper fills a very marked want in the modern development of the country, in the absence of any local press amongst the eleven and a third million inhabitants of the Northern Provinces of Nigeria. It is, moreover, most improbable in any near future that any local private agency could adequately and in a representative manner gather together general articles from Nigerians of all classes with the items of news from all provinces, even the most distant from the greater centres, that is now a feature. It has had a

wide success, though of course its distribution varies greatly in different parts. It is no longer the production of a few pens at head-quarters or in government offices, but is the work of numerous persons of all classes. Its circulation has gone up to about 5,000, while the revenue from sale, at 6*d.* a copy, though varied in price in some places, is beginning to give rise to the hope that the publication may in time pay its way.

In addition to 'news', articles of general interest, such as descriptions of festivals or celebrations or tribal customs or history, and expositions of economic developments such as veterinary or agricultural or forestry or medical activities, are common. A few items of 'world news' appear, and it has been hoped to develop this side of the paper, for which a demand will grow with the spread of education.

It is published four times a year. Though enthusiasts have asked for its production monthly—and even weekly—present experience shows that quarterly is as often as the available organization makes feasible. It is confidently believed that the paper has and will have a considerable educative value, and that its future potentialities are great.