

European enterprises are legally obliged to provide their African workers with lodging, food, and medical care, in addition to wages. But there are many variations in the way these obligations are implemented. For this reason the Mission recommends closer supervision of working conditions and expects that the African labour unions, officially introduced in 1946, will exercise an extremely useful influence if their development is protected against some powerful interests.

In the field of political rights the Delegates desire a much wider representation of Africans by Africans in the different consultative bodies and suggest that the representatives of Europeans in these bodies should be elected rather than appointed.

The general conclusions of the Mission are followed by reports on particular questions written by various Senators each on his own responsibility. These are concerned with problems of administration, education, demography, health, communications, economics, agriculture, &c. Some documents—petitions, minutes of meetings with delegates of colonial associations—are to be found in the appendix. A few naïve utterances recorded there throw a crude light on the mentality of some European settlers and even of some white trade union leaders.

Communicated by J. J. MAQUET

British Colonial Office—Funds for Research

A BILL to increase the annual amounts payable from public funds for carrying out schemes under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts of 1940 and 1945 has been passed by Parliament. Included in the Bill are provisions for increasing the allocations available for research. The Secretary of State for the Colonies, in introducing the Bill, said that the essential problem facing all Colonial Administrations was how to control environment for good living; there were always effort-destroying factors in the environment and knowledge was still inadequate. If development schemes were to be applied there must be understanding of the structure and customs of the societies affected; the properties of the soil, the existing natural resources, the uses of products, and the methods whereby society and economy could be improved needed to be studied. New centres of research to deal with these problems were being created in the Colonies and research institutions were attached to the new colonial colleges and universities; special missions were undertaking investigations in every field. In these ways the knowledge necessary for tackling problems involved in development work was being acquired and applied.

L'Habitation en Afrique Occidentale

L'OFFICE de la Recherche Scientifique Coloniale (Bureau d'Études Humaines), in collaboration with M. H. Labouret, has published a map of West Africa showing the distribution of different types of native African housing. A key printed at the foot of the map gives drawings of the types of houses and granaries represented. The map, which is based on ethnological and linguistic maps of Meunier, Meek, and Talbot, and on additional unpublished material, is accompanied by explanatory notes describing the materials used for different types of habitation, the methods of building, and the relation of both form and material to physical environment, climatic conditions, and social development. The editors invite comments, corrections, and suggestions, and have distributed with the map a form of questionnaire designed to secure additional information.

The International Colonial Institute

THE International Colonial Institute was founded on 8 January 1894 chiefly in order to facilitate and diffuse the comparative study of colonial administration and legislation.