

et partout un milieu en transformation. Nulle part nous avons encore affaire à des éléments stagnants, à des hommes momifiés dans et par la coutume. Dans les centres plus que partout ailleurs, la population se détache spontanément et autant qu'il lui est possible du passé traditionnel. Il est donc hautement désirable qu'il y ait une certaine harmonie entre la mentalité des juges et celle des justiciables. Il nous semble que la possession d'un degré d'instruction primaire et l'adhésion au régime matrimonial monogamique présenteraient certaines garanties, non seulement d'une bonne intelligence et d'une compréhension mutuelle, mais aussi d'une inspiration collective au progrès, favorable à l'élaboration de 'la coutume moyenne' dont parle le R. P. Charles.

Les trois rapports suivants, présentés par le Dr. H. Jelgerhuis-Swildens, G. C. Latham et Mr. Dundas, traitent des moyens modernes de diffusion de la pensée aux colonies, notamment la presse, le cinéma, la radiodiffusion et le phonographe. Il n'est pas possible de donner un exposé critique des considérations émises sur la question. Notons cependant que les conclusions et l'échange de vues qui en est résulté constituent une des contributions les plus remarquables à l'étude du problème. Chaque page y porte la marque de l'érudition solide et de la profondeur de pensée qui ont assuré à l'Institut Colonial International cette réputation universelle qui honore la science coloniale.

Le régime monétaire des colonies ayant été étudié à la session de Lisbonne, un travail rédigé par P. Fontainas en vue d'apporter quelques précisions sur le régime monétaire au Congo belge a été publié en annexe au présent compte rendu. (*Communication du Professeur N. DE CLEENE.*)

### *Conditions in Northern Rhodesia.*

THE recently published report by Sir Alan Pim, K.C.I.E., on the financial and economic position of Northern Rhodesia<sup>1</sup> is of particular interest in view of the fact that measures for the co-ordination of policy between this and neighbouring territories are at present under consideration by a Royal Commission. The series of inquiries which Sir Alan Pim has now carried out in a number of British African dependencies might be roughly described as intended to ascertain the most economic directions in which their resources could be utilized, with means of reducing unnecessary expenditure; but he has consistently regarded native development not as a subject for economies, but rather as a first charge on resources. In the present report (p. 129) he explicitly rejects the view, which is becoming more and more popular in many African territories, that the native population is only entitled to benefits in proportion to its contribution to revenue. As regards Northern Rhodesia he strongly urges the need for an increase in all kinds of native welfare ser-

<sup>1</sup> Colonial no. 145, 1938.

vices. Some of the native reserves are over-populated to an extent which makes the provision of additional areas necessary; in others lack of water supplies leads to excessive concentration of population at a few points; in many uncontrolled ploughing has seriously injured the soil. Moreover, the type of shifting cultivation in which the ground is fertilized by burning forest trees must lead to the destruction of all forest growth if it is practised in an area too small to allow the forest to recover between burnings. The regions where native land is not restricted are too remote from means of transport for the production of marketable crops to be profitable, and seem likely to remain dependent on wage-labour. They can, however, be assisted by the study of methods of cultivation which will avoid the exhaustion of the soil, and by seed selection to improve the yield and resistance to disease of food crops. The extent of labour migration from the Northern, Eastern, and Barotse Provinces is described as disquieting; but in the absence of alternative economic resources it seems that it must continue to a large extent. The reintroduction of recruiting under effective supervision would make possible the provision of transport facilities, and save many journeys of hundreds of miles by natives in search of work which in the end they may be unable to find. A definite policy designed to meet the needs of an industrial population, with adequate provision of educational and welfare services, is called for. The basis of native taxation is criticized. Varying rates, based largely on the opportunities of employment, are imposed in different districts, but these units are so large that they frequently include both areas close to centres of employment and others which derive no advantage from those centres. An alternative system of tax assessment which gives more scope for grading in accordance with means should be considered, but in the meantime the general rate should be reduced. At the same time the resources of native authorities should be increased if they are to carry out that extension of local services which is regarded as the principal aim of Indirect Rule; though it is true that their judicial functions have the sanction of tradition, as the body of orders which they are required to enforce increases, their duties are tending to become largely repressive.

Anthropological studies are not explicitly mentioned, but the best possible testimony to their value for an investigation of this kind is given in the frequent references to the work on the Bemba of Dr. Audrey Richards. The appointment of a Nutrition Officer to the staff of the Health Department, to carry out a systematic investigation of native diet in as many areas as possible, is recommended. It is not stated what his qualifications are to be, but the inference seems to be that they would be primarily medical. The report points out that the problem of the improvement of native diet involves a wide range of data other than those on the actual nutritive value of different foodstuffs; the distribution of tsetse fly, game preservation, the effects of labour migration and of educational influences, soil productivity, and the traditional

organization of native agriculture are mentioned as subjects of study. Data on some of these can be sought by officers of the technical departments; the ecological survey, for example, has already obtained valuable material on soil productivity and the technical efficacy of native methods of cultivation. It might be suggested, however, that others belong specifically to the sphere of the anthropologist; of these the sociological aspects of the agricultural system, with the developments resulting from new influences such as education and the labour market, are the most obvious. It may be argued that to collect data on many of these points calls for no specialist qualifications beyond a knowledge of the type of data required; but the anthropologist could answer that it still needs a good deal of time, and that the interpretation of the facts when they are obtained is a matter for the expert. A sufficient range of data of a purely statistical nature could possibly be obtained by administrative and technical officers working on a concerted plan; but there would always remain a number of questions the answer to which must depend upon close investigation over a long period. For example, Sir Alan quotes some statistics collected by a district officer with a view to determining whether the proportion of wage-labour drawn from different tribes is affected by the extent to which essential agricultural operations depend on the co-operation of men. Such comparative statistics are of great interest; but in considering problems of the inadequacy of native diet they need to be supplemented by information as to the exact extent to which food production suffers not only by the lack of man-power, but by the absence of the generation which has learnt the traditional lore of agriculture and the failure of school education to supply any equivalent. If, again, it is concluded that the provision of adequate food supplies necessitates some control of migration from the village, it becomes necessary to know what are the real incentives to this migration. Is the rate of tax all-important? This must depend partly on the acceptance by young men of an obligation to earn the tax for their elders. Is the desire for money a dominant influence? For the answer one must follow up the whole chain of tribal economic relationships and find whether customary gifts and services—such as the bride-price, or labour for the chief—are now being demanded in the form of cash or trade goods. Is the escape from irksome duties a motive? The answer depends not on statistics, but on detailed studies of individual cases. In relation to food production, again, it would be necessary to see whether other factors than the absence of men influenced the amount produced, and what are the seasonal variations in the quantity available and the principles of distribution in times of shortage. The recent establishment of the Rhodes-Livingstone Institute, with a Government Anthropologist in charge, is a sign that Northern Rhodesia is alive to these considerations, and it is to be hoped that the Nutrition Officer and the Government Anthropologist will work in close co-operation. (*Communicated by Dr. L. P. MAIR.*)