

passed giving legal status to marriages of Asiatics according to their several religious tenets, while thousands of native Christians, who are demanding legal status for their marriages, are denied this right.

The section on Africa in the Tambaram Report gives an excellent exposition of the meaning of Christian marriage, and of its incalculable value for the development of the spiritual life of the Church. At a time such as this when the Christian Church, with all the centuries of history and tradition behind it, is gravely concerned for the preservation of the sanctity of the marriage bond, it behoves us to support the Native Churches, younger in their experience, in their desire to reach the true spiritual strength and beauty of life under the inspiration of real Christian marriage.

(Communicated by William Y. Turner.)

Congo Swahili

A CONFERENCE of representatives of missions from the eastern half of Congo, together with the local secretary of the Bible Society, was held on 30–31 October 1946. The purpose of the conference was to consider the production of a common form of Swahili for use as a literary medium—and especially for translations of the Bible—throughout the area from Élisabethville to Aba. The conference was able to devise an agreed form, to be known as Congo Swahili, and to make plans for the translation of the New Testament. It passed a number of resolutions defining the orthographical and grammatical principles to be followed, enjoining their adoption by Swahili-speaking missions in the area, and providing for the revision of existing manuscripts and publications.

Conférence Coloniale Franco-Belge

UNE conférence coloniale franco-belge s'est ouvert le 27 janvier à Bruxelles. Elle devait examiner les méthodes d'administration dans les colonies françaises et au Congo Belge et établir les bases d'un échange permanent d'information entre les administrations métropolitaines et coloniales des deux pays.

Portugal: Training for the Colonial Service

THE 'Escola Superior Colonial' was founded in 1906 for the purpose of giving 'the instruction most generally considered as indispensable to Colonial Administrators'. The college has aimed at becoming the centre of training for colonial officers and the only institution where a general knowledge of colonial cultural questions can be acquired, though persons not destined for the colonial service have also been admitted as students. Recently reforms have been instituted, under which two entirely different courses will be included in the school's curriculum; one, practical and professional, for colonial officers and administrators, and another in which the knowledge of experts who have made specialized scientific studies of colonial questions will be systematized and made available to students. The second course will embrace such subjects as international colonial law, colonial history and administration, native institutions and economies, native literature, languages, and art.

*Cost of Living in Nigeria.*¹

THE Commission appointed to inquire into the cost of living in Nigeria published its report in October 1946. The report describes the method of conducting the inquiry; during the first stage, sessions were held at Lagos where statements were read by trades union and government representatives; later the Commissioner (Mr. Tudor Davies) and Mr. Dalley, the assessor, made a tour of the territory in order to acquaint themselves with local condi-

¹ *Inquiry into the Cost of Living and the Control of the Cost of Living in the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria*, Col. No. 204, H.M.S.O., 1946, 3s. 6d.

tions and to have informal meetings with government servants and local representatives of trades unions.

The report points out that the cost-of-living problem in Nigeria cannot be considered in isolation from the economic, racial, and administrative structure of the country, and suggests that the impact of the war on the already complicated economic and administrative structure has been considerable. An account is given of the events and negotiations leading up to the strike of government workers in August 1945; the evidence submitted by the trades unions and by the Government is examined and summarized. The report emphasizes the extremely complicated nature of the problems of the cost of living and the wages structure in Nigeria, and the wide local divergences in living expenses; the view expressed by the Commission is that, so far as it is possible to generalize, the price level since 1939 has approximately doubled, and that the Government's offer of a 20 per cent. rise in cost-of-living allowances was inadequate.

After consideration of all the factors involved, the Commission came to the conclusion that the cost-of-living allowance should be abolished, and the present basic wages and the present cost-of-living allowance should be absorbed in new basic minimum wages. Such wages should be based on indices of expenditure worked out by Government in consultation with a team of statisticians and nutrition experts; indices so prepared would be more accurate and more valuable than the Cost-of-Living Report prepared in Lagos in 1942, and would be studies not only of the movement in the cost of living but also of essential minimum expenditure and so of essential minimum wages. The indices so arrived at should be published, and would serve to draw the attention of literate Africans to the fact that getting sufficient food, clothing, &c. depends on wise spending as well as sufficient spending.

The Commission recommends that the cost-of-living allowances existing in July 1945 should be increased by 50 per cent. until such time as the cost-of-living allowance can be absorbed in the reconstituted wages structure, which should be effected within two years of the date of the report.

The report also makes certain recommendations as to the development and organization of trades unions and of conciliation machinery and advocates the establishment of a 'Labour, Wages, and Conditions of Employment Commission' to examine the conditions of employment in any industry and to make suggestions for the establishment of a Wages Council.

The various statements and memoranda submitted by Government and by trades unions are published as appendices to the report together with numerous tables showing exports, imports, wages, and cost-of-living structure in 1942 and 1945, growth of taxation, &c.

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