

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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