

The object of the survey is to map the boundaries of the distinctive soil patterns, which are known to exist over large areas, and which are determined by the underlying rocks, by climate, relief, and drainage. Within each soil pattern a small area will be surveyed in detail.

Petition of the Bakweri Land Committee, Cameroons under British Mandate

A PETITION dated 24 August 1946 was forwarded to the Governor of Nigeria with a request that it be presented to the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations. The petition formulated a demand on the part of the Bakweri Land Committee, which claims to represent 'the entire populace of the Bakweri people i.e. including the sub-tribes of Bota and Bimbria of the Victoria Division in the Cameroons under British Mandate', for the return of 580 square miles of land which were alienated by the German Government during their administration of the area, and sold or leased as plantations, or to missions, or retained as Crown lands. The Bakweri Land Committee states that there was no legal sale of the land to the German administration or any agreement concluded with the Bakweri people; they state also that the areas remaining to them are 'rocky barren upland slopes', or swamps and bogs, unfit for cultivation; that they have attempted cultivation on the mountain slopes without success, except in the case of the coco-yam, which has proved unsuitable for food, and that they therefore suffer from malnutrition; further, the cultivation of these mountain areas imposes too heavy a strain on the women, who 'by custom are the planters of our locally consumed food stuffs', and causes early breakdowns in health, infant mortality, and deterioration of the people.

The Bakweri Land Committee therefore asks that all land shall be returned to the Bakweri people, that its cultivation shall be regulated by the Native Authority who, in consultation with the Committee, shall apply any profits accruing for the benefit of the people. They also ask, as compensation for the exploitation of their land, for costs equal to the proceeds which have accrued from the plantations during the last five years.

The petition was duly forwarded to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. On 9 June 1948 certain observations by the United Kingdom Government on the petition were forwarded to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in which it was pointed out that all lands had been declared native lands and had been placed under the control of the Governor of Nigeria to be administered for the use and common benefit of the natives; that the Nigerian Government had repurchased 14,851 acres of plantation land for the benefit of the natives, and that the Cameroons Development Corporation had been set up to administer and develop the plantations until such time as the Bakweri people were competent to manage them without assistance; moreover, a senior Administrative Officer had been appointed to make a survey of land in the Victoria Division in order to ensure that the inhabitants had fully adequate land for subsistence farming.

Current Research Projects of the Institute

Cameroons Research: Dr. Phyllis Kaberry, who, on behalf of the Institute and at the request of the Nigerian Government, has been making a study of the position of women among the peoples of the Cameroons under British Mandate, has completed her field researches and returned to England in April. She will present a short report of the main results of her investigations and will follow it by a major study of the Nsau and other peoples of Bamenda. *Ethnographic Survey of Africa:* Preliminary surveys have been carried out for the Ibo, Ibibio, Yoruba, and other peoples in the Southern Provinces of Nigeria as well as for some of the pagan peoples of the Northern Provinces; summarized reports have been circulated or are in preparation. Data are being assembled for the Gold Coast, and a survey of the Akan

peoples has been prepared under the editorship of Dr. M. Fortes. Work is proceeding on the Ga and Ewe groups and on peoples in the Northern Territories. In connexion with the East African section of the survey, Dr. Meinhard has prepared a general survey of the ethnographic divisions of East Africa as well as a more detailed study of the Nyamwezi group of tribes and the inter-lacustrine Bantu. He has now gone to East Africa, with the assistance of a grant from the East African Institute for Social Research (Makerere), to conduct a field survey in Tanganyika and adjacent areas. In South Africa Professor Schapera has been working on the High Commission Territories, Mr. Van Warmelo is collating available material on the Union, and Dr. Lehmann is carrying out a field survey in South-West Africa. Material for the Rhodesias is being prepared under the direction of Dr. Gluckman.

Linguistic Researches: A report of progress on the 'Handbook of African Languages' appeared in a recent number (*Africa*, xviii. 2, p. 129). Arrangements have now been completed for an important field survey of the languages of central Africa, in the border zone between the Bantu and non-Bantu areas. This is an international undertaking, for which the Institute has received financial support from the British, French, and Belgian Colonial Ministries. The four research workers who are to carry out the investigation have now been appointed: Mr. Griffith Quick (British), Mr. I. Richardson (British), the Rev. Dr. A. Van Bulck (Belgian), M. André Jacquot (French). The team will work under the direction of Dr. A. N. Tucker and Dr. M. Guthrie of the School of Oriental and African Studies, and will assemble in London in January 1949 for a preparatory period of training and study. They will proceed to Africa in June 1949, and will spend eighteen months in the field; the supervisors will visit them for consultation at the beginning and towards the end of the period. The team will return to London to collate their results and prepare them for publication in October 1950 approximately.

African Marriage Survey: As already reported (*Africa*, xviii. 3, p. 209), an inquiry into the question of African marriage and family life is being organized under the joint direction of the Institute and the International Missionary Council. A Committee of Management for the Survey has been appointed, consisting of Sir John Waddington, Chairman; Dr. Sundkler and Canon Broomfield representing the International Missionary Council; Professor Daryll Forde and Dr. I. A. Richards representing the International African Institute; Mr. Cartland representing the Colonial Office; the Rev. Father Thoonen representing Catholic Missions in Africa; Dr. E. W. Smith representing the Royal Anthropological Institute; a representative of the Association of Social Anthropologists; and Mr. Letele, an African member of the staff of the School of Oriental and African Studies. A team of investigators has been appointed to carry out the research, consisting of Mr. A. Phillips, formerly legal adviser to the Kenya Government, who will act as Director of the research and will also cover the legal and administrative aspects of the inquiry; Dr. Lucy Mair, of the London School of Economics, who will be responsible for anthropological research; and the Rev. Lyndon Harries, of the School of Oriental and African Studies, who will deal with material provided by missionary organizations. The present stage of the inquiry will be confined to an examination of existing documentary material and is expected to last from eighteen months to two years and to conclude with the preparation of a report.

Field Research among the Bambara, French Sudan: The Institute has made a contribution to the expenses of field researches now being carried out among the Bambara of Segou by Mesdames Dieterlen and De Ganay, under the direction of Professor M. Griaule.

U.N.E.S.C.O.: The Institute has been invited to submit a plan for researches which would contribute to the aims which U.N.E.S.C.O. is designed to serve. A statement has been drawn up for submission to U.N.E.S.C.O. which includes proposals for a series of publications embodying the results of recent African studies and a programme of field research.