

as they have for some years past, but at the same time there has been a decline in the number of Natives employed in the gold-mining industry, with an increase in those employed in coal-mining, and mining for base metals. There seems also to be a decline in the figures for domestic employment, industry, and trade, although the statistics given in this Report are hardly adequate to give a true idea of the position. The official ban on recruiting of mine labour from the Northern territories is making the question of shortage of Native labour a more urgent one, and the Report, without suggesting any concrete remedies, concludes that the effect 'seems to point to the need for consideration being given to the methods which practice and custom have established for making use of the country's labour force, and for encouragement being given to Labour itself to undertake work in a more regular and stable manner than has been the case hitherto'.

The publication of the Report of the Interdepartmental Committee on the Social, Health, and Economic Conditions of Urban Natives in the Union receives comment, and it may well prove an important event in the history of Municipal Native Affairs Departments. Other items of news on the welfare side are the beginning of milk feeding in Native Schools. By the Binfield Milk Scheme of Victoria East 1,200 children are receiving a pint of milk a day, and other schools are evidently following suit. The decision in the Transkeian territories to provide training for Native women as community workers or home demonstrators is also of interest.

### *Institut Français d'Afrique Noire*

It is with great satisfaction that we record the arrival from Dakar of five numbers of *Notes Africaines*, a quarterly publication of the Institut Français d'Afrique Noire. It is indeed an encouraging sign of the times to be in touch once again with French West Africa, and members will read with special pleasure and interest the article in this number of *Africa* by M. Monod.

Each issue of the *Notes Africaines* contains a number of short notes sent in by correspondents in A.O.F. on subjects of scientific interest that they have observed or about which they have obtained information. A great variety of subjects is treated: cases of human phosphorescence, market cries in Bambara, different methods of making fire, Pleistocene finds, blacksmiths' customs, market prices, and so on. There are also some interesting notes on archaeological finds. And suggestions are made of subjects about which information would be welcome. The aim of the journal is clearly to stimulate interest and to encourage exact and methodical observation. There are many African as well as French names among the contributors.

Readers of *Africa* will be interested to know that, among other recent books listed, is one by Professor H. Labouret, *Paysans d'Afrique Occidentale* (Paris, 1941, pp. 307). It is described as 'dorénavant l'un des premiers ouvrages à lire sur l'A.O.F.'

### *Labour Conditions in the Belgian Congo*

REGULATIONS governing the employment of indigenous people in the Belgian Congo have been collected in a volume entitled *Main-d'œuvre indigène: Réglementation des Contrats de Travail* (Congo Belge: A.I.M.O./ENS 1942). The first part of this volume consists of ordinances and decrees governing labour conditions in the Belgian Congo as a whole. The most comprehensive is the ordinance of December, 1940, providing for the health and safety of workers, and regulating labour contracts between Europeans and the indigenous people. In the second part of the volume are found the local measures adopted by the various provinces. These include details of rationing regulations, which will be of general comparative interest, and some information about special camps set up for the 'acclimatiza-