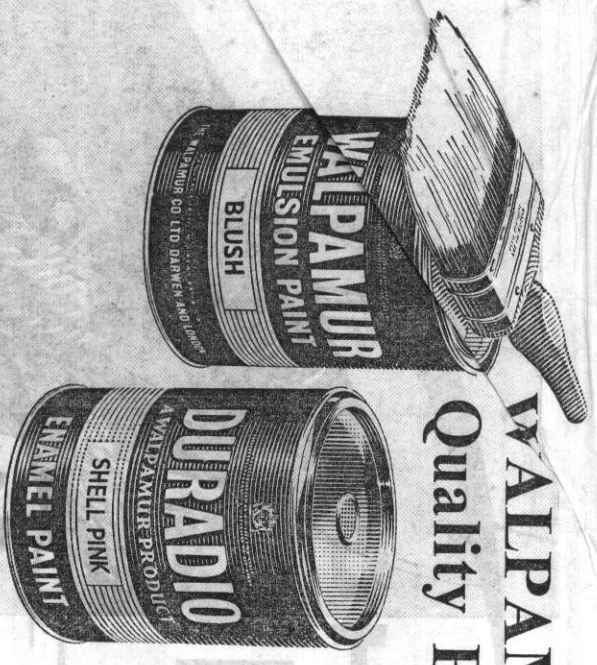


Right: The crushing department of the Tunnel Portland Cement Co. of the later stages of construction.

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HALF TOTAL INCOME

Besides employing most Nigerians, agriculture provides most of the country's exports—nine-tenths of the total value of exports of £164m. in 1959 were earned by the products of Nigerian agriculture. Palm products (kernels and oil) and cocoa together earned nearly half the total in the first nine months of last year; groundnuts and groundnut oil products another 20 per cent, rubber and cotton together more than 11 per cent, and timber, hides and skins, and bananas accounted for about eight per cent of the total between them. Nigeria is the world's main exporter of palm products and groundnuts, and also ships to world markets about one-seventh of their total supplies of cocoa. But all the agricultural exports put together amount to only about one-fifth of Nigeria's total agricultural production. The rest of the output goes to feed the country's rapidly growing population. Against this background it is not surprising that the Economic Survey of Nigeria, published by the National Economic Council in 1959, estimated that agriculture produced about half the country's national income.

What is the outlook for this basic Nigerian industry in the early years of independence? The pace of agricultural development in the last 15 years suggests encouraging prospects for the future, although a number of difficult problems have still to be solved. Nigerian farmers have at least one great achievement to their credit—their output has expanded to keep pace with the growth of the population so that the new mouths are

output in Nigeria. These included soil deficiencies, inadequacy of water supply in certain areas, low yield in plant varieties, prevalence of plant and livestock disease and primitive cultivation methods. At the same time the mission said that they were "impressed by the innate wisdom of the people of Nigeria in devising ways of producing foods for their own consumption and adapting them to local environment." But the mission's advice and the efforts that both preceded and followed their visit were not wasted. In the words of the Economic Survey of 1959, considerable knowledge has been acquired in the last 10 years "and is steadily being added to as to how food supplies could be increased by the use of improved strains, artificial fertilizers, insecticides and improved methods of storage." A network of research organizations is now in existence; some of them, such as the West African Institutes for Oil Palm Research and for Cocoa Research are maintained jointly by several West African countries, others by the federal or regional governments. Rice, which is grown in such quantities that it is now the sixth most important food crop in Nigeria, is an example of the work that has been done in the last 25 years. Many problems still remain and, as the Economic Survey emphasized, will take time to resolve, but after taking these into account the Survey could still sum up the prospects as "reasonably encouraging".

MINERAL EXPORTS

Hitherto Nigeria's minerals have not been important contributors to the national income—they provided about one per cent of the total at the time of the Economic Survey's estimates. Tin and columbite are exported; coal of rather poor quality has been an important source of power in the past; lead and zinc deposits are worked, and iron



Most of the cotton grown in Nigeria is exported, though a small amount goes to local mills. In both cases the cotton is ginned in the producing areas.

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