

WHAT IS "FORCED" OR "COMPULSORY" LABOUR?

The South African Government, discussing the Draft Slavery Convention, defined compulsory labour, apart from slavery, as the state of affairs that exists when "the person doing the labour unwillingly does so because he fears that a worse thing may befall him."

In the Questionnaire addressed to the various governments last year forced labour is defined as "all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty for its non-performance and for which the worker does not offer himself voluntarily."

FORCED LABOUR FOR PRIVATE EMPLOYERS.

The Temporary Slavery Commission of the League of Nations in concluding its labours in 1925 submitted to the Council of the League certain "suggestions" with reference to compulsory labour. One of these reads: "The Commission considers that forms of direct or indirect compulsion the primary object of which is to force Natives into private employment are abuses."

THE "RIGHT" OF PRIVATE PERSONS TO BE SUPPLIED WITH LABOUR.

The principles of British policy were laid down by Lord Lugard in his report on the amalgamation of Northern and Southern Nigeria, in which he stated that the Government would not apply coercion in any form in order to provide labour for private undertakings. "Employers must, therefore," he continued, "make the conditions of service sufficiently attractive to secure the labourers they need . . . Labour will be secured only by kind and fair treatment, decent hutments, the entire absence of blows and ill-usage. . . ."

Mr. Ormsby-Gore, Under-Secretary for the Colonies, during 1925 made a special pronouncement on the subject with regard to Kenya: "No new settler," he is reported to have said, "must go to Kenya under the impression that he has a right to labour. He will get his labour if he goes the right way about it. It is one of the hazards of the undertaking."