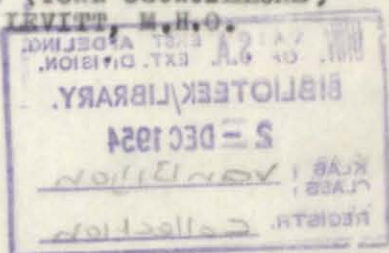


I N D E X.

	pages.	
MR. J. C. YATES (NATIVE COMMISSIONER, FOKWANI)....	815 -	870.
Mr. N. L. B. van VEEN (TOWN CLERK, MIDDELBURG) ...	871 -	887
Messrs. H. J. WALTERS (Secretary Hospital Board)		
J. P. MCLEES.		
V. P. ROSE (TOWN COUNCILLORS)		
Dr. J. A. LEVITT, M. H. O.	... 887	.- 912.



I N D E X .

Pages.
 MR. J. C. YATES
 (NATIVE COMMISSIONER, FORWANI) 870.
 MR. H. J. B. VAN ALEN
 (TOWN CLERK, NIDDELBURG) ... 871 - 887
 MR. H. J. WALTERS
 (Secretary Hospital Board)
 J. P. MEIJER
 V. P. ROSE (TOWN COUNCILLOR)
 DR. J. A. ... 888 - 892

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NATIVE ECONOMIC COMMISSION.

TWELFTH PUBLIC SITTING.

MYDDELBURG, 22nd AUGUST, 1930, 10 a.m.

PRESENT:

Major R.W. Anderson.	Dr. J.E. Holloway (Chairman).
Mr. F.A.W. Lucas, K.C.	Dr. A.W. Roberts.
Mr. A.M. Mostert.	Dr. H.C.M. Fourie.

Mr. C. Faye, (Secretary).

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

MR. JOHN COLQUHOUN YATES, Native Commissioner, Pokwani,

Called and Examined:

THE CHAIRMAN: You are at present Native Commissioner of Pokwani ?- Yes.

Will you give the Commission an idea of your experience of dealing with native affairs in the Transvaal ?- I have had 25 years' district experience in the Transvaal. Of the 25 years I spent two years in Pietersburg, two years in Louis Trichardt, and between Pokwani and Skoonmoed 20 years. I have been in charge of Pokwani for seven years.

Are you prepared to make a statement about the economic conditions of the natives in your area? First of all can you give us approximately an idea of the population of your area ?- Yes, the population is approximately 40,000.

Of those, how many would be taxpaying natives ?- 8,370 would be taxpaying natives.

Of your taxpaying natives how many on an average pay their taxes elsewhere ?- I should think a little more than half. Not this year, because we have had no tax at all. Most of our natives have paid elsewhere this year, but quite

a number will pay here now. By "here" I mean Middelburg, which is out of my district.

Would you regard that fifty-fifty ratio as representing the number of males who are away for labour from your district or would there be more or less? - No, that would be more or less the proportion. ~~xx~~

We were given evidence by Major Hunt to the effect that the people in his district --- that a considerably bigger proportion were generally away for labour. Do you think the conditions are more favourable in your location? - A large proportion of my natives live on private farms, where they work, almost as big a proportion as are in the location, which is not the case at Skoonoord.

Can you compare the conditions of the reserve of Pokwani accordingly, the carrying capacity of the soil, with that of Sekukuniland? - No, Pokwani at present is better, for the reason that there is a bigger rainfall.

Normally there is a bigger rainfall, is that so? - Yes, I think the rainfall at Skoonoord is a little over 20 inches, and Pokwani, until a few years ago, was 27 inches. But then we vary a lot too. We have a very low fall sometimes.

Is the soil more fertile here? - No, the soil is not more fertile, but very often you get fairly decent crops.

What do you usually get? - Mealies and other things.

Do you have more or less the same type of soil as Skoonoord? - No. We have decomposed granite there, and at Skoonoord we get turf. Of course, you do not get the same rainfall right through. In Major Hunt's area they do not get the same rainfall as we get here.

What is the predominant native crop? - It depends

on where you are. Along the Blands River it is kaffir corn. Pokwani is mealies, and a little kaffir corn, and again more to the west you also have kaffir corn. The rainfall is smaller, but the crop there is better. It stands a drought better than mealies.

Is there an exchange of maize against kaffir corn in these various areas ?- No, there is not much of that.

Do the kaffir corn areas grow sufficient maize for their own consumption ?- They use their kaffir corn.

Do they grow maize ?- They have tried it, but they get a crop only once in five years. It comes up but they never get a crop. With kaffir corn they do.

You have natives here whose staple diet is kaffir corn ?- Yes.

Now, what are their methods of agriculture here ?- I am afraid that my people are very backward.

Do they use European ploughs ?- Yes.

Do they use the small light ploughs, ~~for~~ such as the natives use in other parts of the country ?- Yes, they mostly use light ploughs.

Could you give us an indication of how deep they plough ?- I should say that they do not plough more than three or four inches at the most.

Now, will you tell us, is the country wooded ?- Most of it is. Pokwani itself is high veld and it is not wooded, but the rest of the area is.

In the wooded areas, do they dig out the stumps when they clean the ground ?- They do not dig them out, they mostly burn them out, and eventually they rot. They clear them all right, but it takes time. They burn the tree out.

Do the native lands have their peculiar look of other native lands, that you see bushes grow out of the crops all over the place ?- No, I cannot say that. They have

ploughed these lands for generations, and you can say that the trees have practically died.

So that the lands in the course of time have become clean ?- Yes.

Do they use kraal manure at all ?- Yes, at Pokwani they do.

Do they use it largely ?- Yes, at Pokwani you have fairly good agriculturists. I know natives who have irrigation lands and who grow 200 to 250 acres of wheat, and those natives use quite a lot of manure.

So they are considerably advanced so far as agriculture is concerned above the rest of the natives ?- Yes, I think one can safely say that.

Do the natives there at Pokwani generally use kraal manure ?- Yes, they mostly do that. They have to do so because the soil is very poor and they realise the necessity of doing something.

How large an area would that apply to ?- It would apply to about half of the Socoeni Ward. My District consists of three wards. You must not mix up Socoeni with Sekukuni. It is spelt differently.

Have you any idea how large that is ?- I should say it is about 300 square miles.

And for the rest of the area, is kraal manure not used there ?- No, it is very, very slightly used, if at all.

There is one point I should like to make. It is advocated that they should teach the natives to go in for agriculture, but most of the young boys who could do the work are away. Only old women and old men do the work. The natives contract for six months on the mines or elsewhere, which means that they are away for $7\frac{1}{2}$ months at the least, or if he contracts for nine months it means that he is away

practically a year. So really the people doing the work of cultivation are less able to do so. They are either the women or the old men.

But among the natives generally the man is not the cultivator ?- Well, at Pokwani he is. If he has a good piece of ground some of them never go out to work. If he has irrigated land he stays there and works.

That must be a matter of later development ?- Yes, it is. The original tribal native ---

Yes, the original tribal native left the lands to his women folk ?- Quite so, that is what I wanted to say. But things are altering now.

Is the plough universally used in your area ?- Generally speaking, I think you can say so.

Are there no natives there who do the breaking up of the ground with the native hoe ?- No, there are only a very few who do that.

Are any other European implements being used ?- There are a few who use cultivators and harrows, and so on.

And do not they use any planters ?- No, they do not.

Are the lands laid out regularly or do they scatter them about ?- They are very much scattered about.

Is there any fencing there, or are there any enclosures ?- Most of my location is fenced. They are bound to fence there, but it is only the lands nearer the kraals which are fenced.

Do they have wire fences ?- No, they have bush fences, very few have wire fences. The reason why is that it is recognised by the natives that if they do not fence near the village the cattle may get into their lands and in those circumstances they will not be able to get compensation.

Do you find that there is a tendency on the part of

the young natives to abscond ?- Yes, very much so.

And is that tendency very marked ?- Yes, it is.

Now perhaps you can tell us - can you account for it ?- Yes, the attractions of town life are very great to the native. He hears of the bioscopes and the good food and the nice clothes, and all that sort of thing, and of the amusements which he can get in the town. In the country he has not got that. When they go off to work they get all these amusements, and that is what attracts them away from the land. You can go and offer these people 10/- to work in the location or 10/- in the towns, and they will always go to the towns.

Do not you think that there are any other factors at work ?- Well, home life too, I suppose. The conditions of life are much harder in the kraals than they are in the towns.

In what way are they much harder in the location ?- Well, in the location they do not get such good food. Some years they may be short of food even, but in the towns they know that they will always get good food, and furthermore in the kraals they have to herd the cattle, and they do not like that. They look upon it as hard work.

They are made to work in town ?- Yes, but it is more congenial work.

Do you think the house-boy's work appeals to them ?- Yes, it does.

Is it the work itself or the food attached to it which attracts them ?- Generally speaking I should say it is the food and the general excitement of a town.

Did not the natives at the start regard the work of a houseboy as beneath their dignity ?- No, not the natives from our part. I can tell you this, most of the servants come from our area.

But just at the start; the wild native must regard domestic service as woman's work ?- Yes, they do in Basutoland, but not here. In Basutoland all the married Europeans have native girls working in the houses, but that is not so here.

Do you think that they have got so used to it that they do not mind it now ?- I suppose that is so.

Do not you think that the Bantu in his original state would have looked upon that as not worthy of a man's dignity ?- Very probably.

But years of custom have overcome that ?- Yes, years of custom have broken that down.

How do the parents regard this absconding of the natives ?- Well, of course they do not like it at all and they try to stop it.

And do they have any degree of success ?- To a certain extent, yes. We refuse to give them passes unless they get the consent of the parents.

You say that the parents try to stop them from going away; what do they do ?- Well, they come to us. The chief says "Do not let any of our boys go out under any circumstances unless I have given permission or unless the parents bring these young boys themselves."

But if the boy gets away without a pass, there are always ways by which he can succeed to remain in town ?- Yes, that is so. Say, for instance he goes to Witbank and he has not got a pass; the officer writes to me and he asks me if the native has permission from his parents to work in Witbank and I write back yes or no, and if it is no, they send him back, or otherwise the parent goes and fetches him.

Should not a system like that be made universal ?- It would be a very good thing if it could be done, and quite a number of native chiefs have approached me on that matter.

MR. MOSTERT: The area of your location is 300 square miles ?- No, my area is about 4,000 square miles. The 300 square miles is ~~xxxxi~~ merely the High Veld portion, that is simply the Pokwani area,

Well, now, what is about the yield per acre all round ?- The yield per acre is very small. It depends on what part of the country you are in. Round about Mosikraal for instance the yield is good, because it is black soil there, it does not need fertiliser like the ordinary soil, but the average I should say is not more than two bags per acre I suppose.

That is hardly sufficient to feed the whole of your population ?- It is very seldom that they gain enough to feed themselves during the year. It is only in very exceptional years, and in seven years I think this is the first year that they have sufficient food everywhere to carry them through the year.

Now, have you got a census of the stock in your area ?- I can give you a very good idea of it. I could get it at Pokwani. Big stock about 37,000 and small stock I should imagine about 20,000, and donkeys I should say about 5,000 or 6,000.

Do you consider that your area is over-stocked ?- I should say that portions are very much over-stocked, but you see a large part of my area is privately-owned ground.

Within your area you have privately-owned farms ?- Yes, quite a number of them. To give you an idea, I have several cases of scheduled areas, and they are about 27,000 morgen. I have about 29,000 morgen of privately-bought land and I have about 3,000 morgen of land bought by natives individually. The rest is all private ground.

Out of the 192,000 acres of arable ground which you have, is that mostly under the plough ?- In the native areas, yes.

And do they plough that with a light plough ?- Yes, mostly, barring exceptional cases.

This rainfall of 27 inches, is that more or less over the whole of that area ?- No, only the Fokwani area. In some parts we get as low as 12 inches.

You would not grow mealies there ?- No, as I say kaffir corn is grown there.

Do they go in for beans at all ?- Yes, they go in for them very considerably and I think the stores must have bought about 7,000 bags of beans this year.

MAJOR ANDERSON: What sort of price do they pay ?- Practically nothing, about 6/- or 7/- a bag.

MR. MOSTERT: Does the native realise that the bean is a natural fertiliser ?- He has not realised it yet, but he goes in for beans all the same.

Does he realise that it brings nitrogen into the ground ?- A few of them know that, but the majority has not realised that yet.

Now, any of your areas with a 27 inch rainfall should produce much more than two or three bags per acre ?- Yes, provided they fertilise.

Do they realise that they should plough better than they do ?- Yes, but they have not got the trek-diene, and so on, and they have not the hands to plough. Very often the women do it.

In other words, the farming is really left to the old men and the women of the kraal on account of the young men being away in Johannesburg ?- Yes, that is so.

Now, do they realise this, that they are over-stocked ?- Yes, I think they do.

And yet they do not sell the stock ?- Well, they look upon the stock as their bank, and that is why they do not sell it.

They over-stock and they know it, and yet they will not sell ?- No, that is so.

You say that there are various farms in your area - European farms ?- Yes.

Do you know anything about the contract system between Europeans and natives ?- Yes, I come in contact with it daily.

Do you find that that contract is satisfactory ?- No, absolutely not.

Will you give us the terms of the contract, is there more than one contract ?- Oh yes, there is more than one contract. It depends on which part of the district you are in. Round the Mapoch's gronde and Lagers Drift there is no contract at all. The native calls it the "Somaar" contract.

That is all verbal ?- Yes, he is expected to work at any time when there is work to be done on a farm, and his women are supposed to do the washing twice a week and the cleaning of the house, and they are supposed to help with the reaping. Whenever there is work to be done they are expected to help and there is no specified time laid down. That is in the poorer part of the district. Then you come to the richer part, where the Greeks are. They have three months for the ordinary married native. The women do not work at all.

Is that what is known as the ninety-day contract, three tickets ?- Yes, three months. Some have tickets and others simply have the calendar month. And then the

~~Isixixixix~~ younger boy who has not got a house of his own works four months, and the married man three months, and for the rest of the time he is free to go where he wants to. That is the contract which the better class farmer has got. Then you have the man who works on the High Veld, who only has ground, which he works in winter for grazing. He keeps the piccanins throughout the whole year. So long as there are sufficient piccanins he does not worry about the older men. Then you have the other man who has to work six months in the year and his women do the washing. But the majority of the better class farmer goes in for the three months' contract.

Are these contracts invariably carried out by both parties ?- They have to be, otherwise they kick them off. They come to me and they say "this native has not fulfilled his contract; he has to go."

Are there any payments made in the ordinary way for day labour ?- are there cases where the farmer pays the native so much per day or so much per month ?- Yes, the Greeks employ quite a number on that basis. In the whole of the district, in the Fokwani District, there would be about 600 natives employed by farmers for cash at so much per month. That is of course apart from the farm labourers who live on the farm.

Does the farmer here have any difficulty in getting labour ?- It depends on the farmer. The Greek finds no difficulty at all but some others do.

What wages do they pay ?- Again, it depends on the work. The Greek pays good wages - up to £3, but most pay £2. Others again pay 2/6d. per day and they have to feed themselves.

On £2 per month do they find everything for themselves ?- They are mostly young boys who have the location next to

them. They simply come from the location to work on the farms. They feed themselves.

And do they go home every day ?- They do.

What do they grow on these farms ?- Wheat is the principal crop in that part of the district.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do you regard £2 to £3 as a good wage in this district ?- Yes.

And the native finds everything ?- Yes, the farmer cannot afford to pay more.

MR. MOSTERT: When he pays £3 does he feed the boy ?- No, he cannot come out.

It is only an exceptional boy ?- The ordinary is about 30/-, but then he feeds them.

MR. LUCAS: Is it 30/- per month, or is it 30/- per 30 shifts ?- It is 30/- per month.

MR. MOSTERT: You have the two systems then ?- Yes, 30/- and £2.

Do not you have any thirty-day tickets ?- No, we have not.

MAJOR ANDERSON: You said that the natives in your location are working a better type of agriculture than other districts. Can you give us any reason why that should be so ?- That is in Pokwani. I have several locations, only one of which is Pokwani.

Can you give us any reason for those better agricultural methods ?- Well, they are very advanced, and then they have got good ground. Quite a number have irrigation schemes and small water supplies, and fountains, and they find that it pays them to work that, so much so that a considerable number of them do not go out to work but stay all the year round in their location.

They have evolved that themselves ?- Yes, they are on a much better scale than others.

Have you any agricultural demonstrators out your way ?- No, we have not got any yet.

Are you going to get them ?- Well, we shall be vsey glad to.

Can you tell us what proportion of the natives in your location go out to work ?- Yes, last year under contract to the mines there were roughly 1700 who went out from my area. That is on a contract. They go to the Gold Mines and to the Premier Mine. 1700 were recruited and sent out.

Let us be clear on that - 1700 went out ?- No, that is only the recruited labour. We issued 4,000 passes, and 2,000 from the other offices. That is 6,000 passes were issued. You can say that 5,000 went out.

That is 5,000 went out, out of 8,000 taxpaying natives ?- Yes.

They had to go out to work ?- Yes, the locations are too small, they have to go out to work. You can tell a native location miles away - it is bare, like its people. Anyone can tell which is a native location.

Do you have many recruiters working there ?- We have several. The Premier Mine have a man there and the Native Recruiting Corporation also have a man working there.

Are you generally satisfied with the methods of the recruiters ?- Yes, in our district they are all right. They are paid a salary, and not by results. Of course, a number of natives who go out on their own. They prefer to do that because then they can sign on, on a monthly basis, except on the Premier Mine, where it is a three months' contract. But if they are recruited they have to sign on

for three, six or nine months. In return for that they get an advance up to £3.

How many stores have you got in your location ?- Oh, there are more stores than natives.

What is the system of licensing ?- In locations of course they have to get the permission of the Government and they are on three months' notice on either side. That is in the locations only, of course.

There is plenty of competition ?- Yes, plenty, too much.

Are the prices in the stores reasonable ?- I can buy cheaper there than elsewhere.

Is that on account of the competition ?- Yes.

MR. LUCAS: Have any of the natives got stores ?- Yes, but there is only one; most of them went bust. They started shopkeeping but they have not got the business heads to keep them going.

Do you mean to say that none of them succeeded ?- That is so.

Are the European shopkeepers able to exercise any pressure on the natives ?- No, that is not so now. There is very little credit given there. They do not give credit to the natives.

The natives-storekeepers themselves give credit, do not they ?- Well, they start by doing so, but they soon find out their mistake, and they stop it.

Is that the reason why they go bust ?- Yes, they have not got the business instinct. That is the reason.

You are now referring to the natives in your location ?- Yes, that is the position right throughout our district.

You would not say that about the natives in other areas ?- Yes, I would, it is the same at Skeemoord.

But in the Cape, what would you say about the position in the Cape? - I do not know about the Cape; I can only speak about the Transvaal and Basutoland, and in Basutoland the position is the same as here. I had the same experience.

Did you have the same experience in Basutoland? - My brothers run on a large scale a business in Basutoland and the position there is exactly the same.

Now, you spoke about the "somaar" contracts; I believe that they are in the poor areas, are not they? - Yes.

What does the native get under such a contract? - He gets lands. It is a poorer type of native that you get there and he often has not got any cattle, and the farmer ploughs his lands for him, and when he is short of food sometimes the farmer sometimes helps him and sometimes he does not.

The lot of the native there is very precarious then? - Yes, very often he cannot pay his taxes. When I come along for his tax I say to the farmer "Look here, this boy must pay". The man says he has not finished his contract and I tell the farmer then that he must pay for him or give the boy his pass to go out to work, and in many instances the farmer has given him his pass and let him go to find work.

Rather than pay the £1? - Yes, rather than that.

MR. MOSTERT: Has he got the £1 to pay? - Very often he has not. That is why he has to go out to work.

MR. LUCAS: I am told that at Iagers Drift there is a poor white settlement? - That is so.

I am told that some of these settlers have squatters of their own? - Yes, numbers of them have.

Does the Government allow that? - It is not a Government settlement; it belongs to the Church.

What size plots have these settlers got? - I think that they have 12 morgen or 14 morgen, and they have a right to grazing over an area of 12,000 morgen.

Are these 12 to 14 morgen dry or irrigated? - Some of

them are dry and some are irrigated. They are divided into lots and they have common grazing.

Would every holder have some irrigated land ?- No, not every one of them. Some of them.

Now, you have told us that the areas of your Reserves, the farms owned by natives, 20,000 morgen are reserves; 20,000 morgen are owned by the tribes and 3,000 morgen are individually owned. Is that so ?- Yes.

Now, these 3,000 morgen ~~how~~ how many people own them ?- You can count them on your fingers. There is Morgenzon, six owners, roughly 250 to 300 morgen each.

Do each of these five or six own their sections individually ?- Yes, the land is being surveyed and there is a separate title deed on each section.

And the remainder of the 1500 ?- A native owns two farms, John Machadi about 700 morgen, then there is another one Manganyani - he owns 300 odd morgen of his own, and he is interested in about one-sixth share in about 1400 morgen.

Can we take it that there are about ten natives there ?- No, there are more, altogether 16 or 17.

Owning land individually ?- Yes.

Is that in the whole of your district ?- Yes.

How are the natives progressing ?- They are progressing very well; in fact, I should say that some of them are much better off than some of the Europeans in my area.

To what do you attribute that ?- They work very hard. Their living does not cost so much as it does the white man.

Are their methods good ?- Yes.

Do they plough deep ?- Yes, they have got good oxen and good ploughs.

And have they in turn got squatters on their land ?- Yes. All of them ?- Not all, but most of them.

Do you know what terms they give to the squatters ?- The

give the same terms as the Europeans - the three months' system. They have them on that.

And do they feed them ?- When they are working they feed them, but they do not feed them otherwise.

And do they require the women to work ?- No, most of them do not, and you can tell the difference at once. The women on these native farms are big and fat. They are different from the ordinary native woman, because they do not have to do any work.

We were told that there was a great grievance amongst the natives because the women are supposed to work ?- No amongst these.

Is that a grievance on the European farms here, where the women are required to work ?- Yes, very much so. They do not like their women working, and it is often the cause of their leaving the farms.

I want to have a little more information about these individually owned farms. Their methods are better and they succeed ?- Yes.

Do you attribute that to the fact that they have individual ownership ?- Yes.

Are there any other ~~xxxxxxx~~ features you would like to tell us about in connection with this individual ownership by the natives ?- I would rather encourage it. I have set an area part where youk could buy small plots of 50 or 100 morgen.

Would that be enough for a native to make a living ?- Yes, these are too large.

Are these individually owned farms over-stocked ?- No.

And do you know whether the owners place any limit on the number of stock their squatters run ?- They will not allow too many.

Does a native prefer to go squatting on a native's privately-owned land as against the European's ?- Well, there

are so few of them that it is difficult to say.

Do they have any difficulty in getting squatters ?- No.

And generally, does your answer mean that they do not run many cattle, these squatters ?- No, very often they have not got any.

And the owners themselves, have they got many cattle ?- Quite a lot, but they mostly use their cattle to pay for the farm, and they do not keep many, except for working purposes.

And do they look well after them, do they try to improve their stock ?- No, but they may go in for a few Africander bulls, but that is all.

Have you noticed any improvement in regard to the stock-taking ?- In one or two inches, I have.

And you consider that individual ownership for the native if he is ready for it is a good thing? - Yes, provided he is intelligent. Some of them were transport riders originally and they made money in that way.

I think you said that the population was about 40,000 ?- Yes.

And there were 38,000 head of big stock ?- Yes.

That is less than one per person ?- Yes.

Do you consider that that is excessive ?- In the location, I consider it is.

I am not talking now of the area of ground. Do you consider it is excessive ?- They have not got the grazing, but otherwise it would not be excessive.

Do you think it is reasonable from the natives' point of view ?- Yes, provided they have sufficient ground I should say that they should have much more stock but that it should be much more equally divided. This is what you find today - one man has perhaps got 100 head of stock or 150, and another has got nothing at all.

Are there many that have large numbers ?- I would not say that there are many, but there are quite a few.

Now, this 36,000 head of cattle - where are they kept ?- They are in the location and on private land.

Are they on land owned by the tribe or on individually-owned land ?- They are on both. Some are in locations and some on private ground, and some on native-owned ground.

Do all these cattle belong to the natives ?- Yes. I have not included the European-owned cattle, of course.

You have told us that the natives have adopted ploughs. Are there any other important changes which have taken place in your areas since you have been there ?- No, I cannot think of any.

Natives have retained their own methods ?- Yes.

You told us also that there was a tendency for the piccanins to run away. Is there any other sign of the break down of tribal control ?- Yes, there are quite a number of signs. The position is that first of all there is not sufficient ground for the tribe and they have to move on. As they move on further away from the tribal influence they get out of hand. Although they may acknowledge the Chief the Chief may live twenty or thirty miles away and they are not under the direct influence of the chief and therefore they gradually work away from the tribal part of the business. Another reason is, that the chiefs have no power nowadays as compared with the olden days. In the olden days if a native did anything wrong they took away all his stock and they put him out. Nowadays they cannot do that. Now a lot of the natives do not go to the circumcision school, where they are taught to obey their chiefs and leaders.

You say that a lot of them do not go to the schools ?- No, I would not say a lot, the majority go to these schools but some of them do not.

What happens to those who do not go ?- Well, they are not looked upon as men.

Are there some who risk that ?- Yes, especially in a place like Moolfontein, where there are any amount of missionaries.

Are the missions their refuge ?- I would not say that, although they do protect them in a way. If the chief did anything wrong they would go to the missionaries.

DR. ROBERTS: A boy in that case would not get married ?- Well, it would be very difficult to marry him among the heathens.

Or even among the educated ?- No, they have not cut it as fine as that. Occasionally there are disputes of that sort, but very seldom.

Are there any other changes that you have noticed ?- Those are the principal changes which I have noticed. Of course, the pieganins go out to work young and when they come back they have a nice new suit on and they will not listen to the older men or to their chief. They take no notice. They are the most difficult to control of the whole lot, and that to my mind is the principal ~~reason~~ reason why the tribal system is breaking down.

Do you find that many natives go from the location and never return ?- I do not mean those who die, but do you find many who settle down somewhere else ?- Oh, ~~many~~ many number do not return. As a matter of fact, the natives have a name for it, "legoeloe". That is what they call it, - "the one who never comes back." The reasons are that they get married up there and do not come back. And another thing is that they get into bad habits and they do not want to come home without money.

And they become town natives ?- Yes. Some have learned a trade of sorts and there is no scope for that in the location and they are able to make better money in the towns, so they stay there.

We had evidence yesterday, or the day before, that the reason why a lot of natives, young natives from the farms, run away, is because of the long hours which they have to work on the farms ?- Yes, that is quite true. They do not like farm work. They get no money at all and they are simply working for the farmer. Occasionally they get a shirt, or an old pair of trousers, or something like that, and for that they have to get up early in the morning. They always get mealie-pap and nothing else, and they prefer to go to the towns and work for wages.

Do you think that that is a genuine explanation ?- Yes. They run away and the next thing is that you do not know where they are. The farmer comes and complains to the police and he wants us to help to get them back.

You told us that between 60 and 70 per cent of your male natives go away to work elsewhere. Do most of these go right away or do many of them work in the immediate neighbourhood of the location ?- They go right away. The location natives mostly go right away.

What is the effect of that on the life in the location - on the economic life of the location ?- It means of course that there is one less to feed. They earn money while they are away and they send money home and they bring money back with them when they come home again.

Do they send much home ?- Quite a lot. They do that through the office and through the resident recruiter. Many of them have deferred pay. The contract is for nine months and they defer £1 or £2 to be paid to them on their return home.

Is the deferred pay only for the younger boys ?- No, the Gold Mines do it for all of them, but of course the Gold Mines do not recruit the piccanins.

Does that system work satisfactory ?- Yes, so far it

has worked quite satisfactorily. The Premier Mine, of course, do not do it. Their contract is only for three months.

Do you notice any effect on the morals of the location through these young men being away? - Not to any extent; their morals of course are different from ours.

But can you notice it? - Not to any extent. Except that a native woman is married and the husband is away for five or six years, and in the meantime she has a child by the brother; that is quite recognised.

You mentioned one effect of the men being away, and that is that the ploughing is done by the women and the old men? - Yes.

Do you think that that has a serious effect on the location? - It is serious, as far as agriculture is concerned; how are you going to improve it.

You see no chance of improving it with the present system ~~existing~~ continuing? - Well, you cannot very well plough with the piccanins.

And generally speaking, native women are not allowed to handle the cattle? - They do now, but they used not to.

What is that change due to? - To the men being away. You find native girls herding cattle now.

And do you find women ploughing? - Yes.

I want to ask some questions about the natives on the farms. Do you find many of them leaving farms on which they have been working to go into the location? - Yes, wherever there is ground. I had fourteen tribal accounts in regard to the purchase of ground. The tribe buys the ground but most of them do not live in the location; they live outside. But as soon as a tribe acquires ground it gets filled up by natives from the farms.

By natives from privately owned farms? - Yes.

What do you attribute that to? - To the desire to be

their own masters.

In that they are very much like ourselves ?- Yes, I suppose so.

Now, taking your district as a whole, would you say that the natives working on the farms are contented ?- No, I would not say that.

What are the main causes of discontent ?- Well, the trouble is with the contracts. Say the native has a three months' contract. Say he has to start tomorrow. He goes on for three days and then he starts a beer drink which lasts three days. His contract goes on, but instead of simply being three months, the time that he has been drinking is taken off and he has to go on for six months. Meanwhile, he wants to buy a blanket or something. He goes to his baas and he asks for a pass to be allowed to go to work, but the baas says "Oh no, you must finish your contract." Then he is dissatisfied and he thinks he is being done down. That is one of the reasons. Then there is also a question of his stock. His master comes to him and says "your bull is no good, you must get rid of it". He does not like that, and again he is discontented, and there are many things like that. And uptodate farmer cannot afford to have a lot of scrub cattle and especially scrub bulls roaming about the farm. Naturally he ~~xxx~~ cannot.

Yesterday we were told that there is a lot of bad feeling, racial feeling, between white and black in this area, and one of our witnesses regarded this as being very serious. Have you any difficulty like that here ?- I cannot say that we have that difficulty. The only thing I know is that the native is getting more difficult to handle. Twenty years ago it was a simple thing to be a native commissioner, today it is not. It is very difficult now. Nowadays they will not listen, and they get out of hand. The reason is

the breaking down of the native tribal system and substituting nothing for it. That is the cause of the trouble.

I have 40,000 natives, and how many police have I got?

If the native does not want to do a thing he simply does not do it and he defies the police.

Generally, would you say that the native is law-abiding? - Very much so, otherwise we could not control him at all.

You would not say that the relations between white and black in this area have changed for the worse in the last 20 years? - Yes, I would say that; very much so.

Could you suggest anything by which that could be remedied? - One thing would be for a proper contract to be drawn up for the farmers.

You think that the omission to do that is one of the big causes of the trouble? - Yes, I do.

To refer to the question of the chief's authority, that as you say has been weakened. Now, would you like to see the chief's authority increased? - Yes.

How would you suggest doing that? - At present our chiefs have only civil jurisdiction. As far as I know there are none in the Transvaal who have criminal jurisdiction. I think there are a few in Zululand, but I am not sure.

Would you give the chiefs criminal jurisdiction in small matters? - Yes.

And are there any other changes which you would suggest? - Of course, it is very difficult to explain to a native the difference between civil and criminal matters.

It is very difficult even for Europeans to understand it? - It is more difficult even for natives.

Would you say that there are any other ways in which you would increase the Chief's authority? - That is the main

thing.

What benefit would you expect from that ?- The tribes would respect the chief more, and there would be better discipline in the tribe.

Do you think that there should be better discipline in the tribe. Yes, certainly; we have taken away something from them and substituted nothing.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Have you got a Council ?- No, my people are very suspicious about a Council. They have the suspicion that the Council would take power away from the Chiefs and the Chiefs are very much afraid of that at present. They think that the Council would rob them of some of the little power which they have at present.

MR. LUCAS: To carry out the idea of increasing the Chief's authority, you would have to train the chief and you would have to guide him ?- Yes. At present where you get a good chief everything goes all right, but where you have a bad chief it is hopeless. I should say that one should be more careful about the appointment of the chief. That is a very important thing of course.

Do you think something should be done in the selection of the chief ?- I think so. I have had several cases where acting chiefs have been appointed. I have been against it but the tribe has been for it, and they have turned out failures.

Do you think that if the Government were to appoint a chief against the wishes of the tribe, would they respect him if he were a good chief and would they accept him ?- Yes, if he were a good chief.

In Lydenburg they were against it ?- They would say so out of loyalty to the chief.

That is a very important point. There must be a power on the part of the Government not only to train but to depose a bad chief ?- The Government can depose a chief now, if they want to.

Have your tribe in your area made any levies ?- Yes.

For what purpose have they done so ?- For the purchase of land.

And have they been satisfactorily paid ?- We have had five levies, which were imposed under Act 15, dealing with native taxation. Section 15 provides that the Government can proclaim a tribal levy provided most of the tribe agree. Five of these levies were collected and where the chief is good we found it easy but where he is not good, it is hopeless. The trouble is that we can get the levy from a man who has stock, but there has been a ruling in the Supreme Court that we cannot imprison anyone for not paying tribal levy. It is only a civil matter. Therefore, the young native who has no stock, although he can afford to pay, simply does not pay.

These farms which you spoke of as being owned by the tribe, they have been bought from the proceeds of levies, is not that so ?- Yes. There is a chief here who has close on £2,000 on fixed deposit. That is for ground. He has collected that himself, but he is a strong chief. What he says is law. That is Secoati.

Now, as they acquire more farms in this way do you think that that will have any effect in preventing the tribal natives from becoming urbanised ?- Yes, I think so.

There will be less tendency for them to settle in the towns ?- Yes, and that is a most important thing. This land purchase, so far as I can see, is going to be the solution of ~~xxx~~ a lot of the native troubles.

You, yourself, do you favour steps being taken to weaken the tribal system or to strengthen it ?- I am in

favour of strengthening it. You see, we have not substituted anything. We have taken away something, but we have put nothing in its place.

Have any of your tribe moved out of this area to other areas ?- No.

Or have any moved into this area from other areas ?- No, but there are several about to come into my area.

Why are they likely to come ?- There is a crowd of natives at Doornkop, near Middelburg. They are buying ground.

Why are they wishing to leave the Middelburg area ?- I think there is no ground for them; that is the only reason.

Now, could you say anything about the health of your natives in your locations ?- Yes, syphilis is very bad. A very conservative estimate is that 15 per cent of the native population in my area is suffering from syphilis.

Have you discussed that with the medical officers in your area ?- Yes, I have discussed it very often.

How have you come to form that impression ?- I know by the number of natives who apply for exemption from taxation. As a rule, I refer them to the District Surgeons. When I hear that he is syphilitic I exempt him.

Is that the basis of your estimate ?- Yes, that, and coming into contact with natives every day suffering from syphilis.

You know the Skoonoord area. Is that in your opinion better or worse than yours ?- I should think it is about the same as mine.

Major Hunt put his estimate very much higher than you put yours ?- Yes, but I may say that I am purposely putting mine low.

The Jane Furze Hospital is in your area ?- Yes, it is.

And is the Medical Officer there the one whom you

refer to ?- Yes, I referred this matter to the medical officer, to all the medical people as a matter of fact, and I pointed out that the Jane Furze Hospital is quite inadequate for the work which is required. It is the only hospital to deal with 300,000 natives and also Europeans.

Do you have a clinic in your area ?- Yes, we have quite a number. The Medical Officer visits them once a week.

Are there any other diseases prevalent in your area ?- Yes, malaria in locations like Magalies; it is very bad. I had a native doing nothing else this season but going round and distributing quinine. He went to places where the District Surgeon could not get.

Have you any record of the mortality ?- I could not say; there were about forty deaths reported. Those were deaths of which we were more or less sure as being from fever.

Is that in the whole of your area ?- Yes.

Have you come across any cases of miners' phthisis ?- Yes, I have come across any number.

Have you any record of the number ?- No, I have no record. You see, as soon as they are discharged from the mine they go straight home, but I come into contact with such cases when they apply for exemption from tax, and then I send them to the doctor.

Can you give us any figures ?x- It will be very difficult to estimate.

You send the men along to the medical officer and he notifies you as to what is the matter ?- Not necessarily; not always. He may simply say "there is something the matter with the lungs", and then he will recommend exemption perhaps.

He does not always say that it is a case of phthisis ?- Well, sometimes he does, but not always.

When we ask a native where he got ill, he will tell us

"on the mines" , and you can trace his history, generally, and if it is his lungs, you can guess practically that it is miners' phthisis, but I am afraid that very few get compensation.

What is your own opinion, are there many cases of phthisis among the natives who come back to you ?- Yes, I am afraid there are any number of them who come back with phthisis.

Now, let us come to the young children, is mortality very high among them, or is it low ?- No, it is high, it is especially high in some parts. Magalies Location is high.

Why should that be ?- Well, I think the water is bad. In certain parts of the year, in September and October, when the water is at its worst, the mortality is heaviest. You see all the cattle and the stock in the water at that time of the year.

Are any steps taken to improve the conditions there ?- No, I do not know what steps you can take unless you spend a lot of money on bore-holes, and so on.

And that is likely to get worse and worse from year to year ?- Yes, it is likely to get worse. At Pokwani we are better off, there is plenty of water, and the death rate among children is not so bad.

Is the death rate high or low there ?- Well, I should estimate that it is low.

Have you anything to go on so as to be able to give us an estimate as to the percentage ?- I have only got the Chief's report. I asked the chief what was the health in their location like, and he tells me "last month twenty or thirty children died", but we keep no statistics, so that is all I have to go on.

Approximately, what would be the number of children in that location in Pokwani, where the conditions are better ?-

?- The population in my location is about 5,000, and of those 500 or 600 are children.

That would make your twenty or thirty rather high

?- Not there. Magalies is worse.

What is the death rate at Pokwani ?- It is very small in a way. They do not report anything like twenty or thirty dying in a month.

Have you got an adequate number of schools for the children in the location ?- Yes, there are any number of mission schools.

Do they provide sufficient schooling for the needs of the location ?- Yes, the grievance among the natives is that they want a Government School.

Do you know why that should be so ?- There are several reasons. One I have been agitating for at Moolfontein. There you have an English Church school, a Wesleyan Church and a Lutheran Church. All have schools within a few hundred yards of one another and these children between the various churches-there is always friction among the various members of the churches, which should not be of course.

And does that extend to the children ?- Naturally, they take the parents' part.

That is very serious ?- It is most certainly. That is one of the reasons why they asked for a Government School and it is one of the reasons given by the chiefs, and the second reason given us why we should have a Government school is this: "we would have a better chance of getting better education if they were all in one school". The chiefs said to me that they had a number of their people who were heathens and they do not want to go to church schools. If there

were a Government school they would go there, but now they do not go at all.

Is there a keen desire among the natives in your location for education ?- Yes, there is.

Would that be a reason at any time for natives wanting to leave the private farms because they cannot get education there ?- That is one reason among the Christian natives certainly.

Is there any sign in your area of the missions co-ordinating in their work ?- No, I tried to get them to co-ordinate in this instance, but so far without any success.

The point you mentioned is a very serious one from any point of view ?- Yes it is, I know.

Is there much serious crime in your location ?- No, I shall just show you. I have jurisdiction over the natives there as magistrate. In seven years I have had six or seven stock theft cases. But it is outside my area, where the natives are not under tribal discipline, that stock theft is a very common offence. Then we have the trek-boers. They bring in some fifty or sixty thousand sheep, and I do not think there have been more than one or two instances where sheep have been stolen. And that is in the midst of a native area.

You attribute that entirely to discipline ?- Yes, and to another reason. The natives under their customs will never steal in their own locations. They do not steal the grain on the lands, but you get farmers away from the locations and they tell you that the natives steal wholesale. They steal the mealies away from the lands.

Why do not they steal in their own lands ?- ~~xxxxxx~~
?- Because they are afraid of their chief.

Why do they steal from the Europeans' lands ?- Well, there they need not be afraid of their chief. The farmers

run to the police, but the policeman finds it practically impossible to catch a native for stealing mealies in the middle of the night.

I have heard it said that the main reason for stock theft is the inadequacy of the wages ?- I have heard that given as the reason, but I do not know.

Does that apply to your natives ?- No, it does not apply to my part. You see, most of our natives go out to work. They do not work locally.

Now let us come to this question of native taxation. The taxation which the natives have to pay, what is its effect on the native labour supply ? Would many of the natives go out if they did not have to pay taxes ?- No, they would not. The labour agents all advance money, the natives want to stay at home a few months, but unless they pay taxes they get run in. So they go to a labour agent and they get an advance and they pay their tax and stay at home for a few months. But if it were not for the tax driving him out he would not go.

What is the sort of tax that drives him out ?- Well, there is a heavy tax on goods used by the natives. For instance, on cotton blankets and so on.

How many blankets would you say that a native man would use for himself in a year ?- The men do not use it, the men wear clothes, as we do, but the women and children are the ones who get cotton blankets.

At Rectorspruit we were told that the native women could only afford to buy cheap blankets, but that the men wore heavy ones ?- No, that is not so here. In Basutoland the storekeepers sell many rugs, but not here.

What would be the main articles of native trade here ?- I should say cotton blankets, ploughs, agricultural

implements, pots and pans, and sugar, and such things. And they buy a lot of soap too.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do they buy a considerable quantity of soap? - Yes, it is a remarkable thing the quantity of soap they buy in Basutoland from the stores. All the companies have travellers in Basutoland, and the various soap people do a big trade there. They sell any amount of soap.

MR. LUCAS: Is there anything peculiar in your area about the method of distributing the land? - No, it is generally one old person appointed by the tribe, and he continues doing it until he is incapable of carrying on any longer. The chief does not do it.

And is there any dissatisfaction among the natives themselves? - Well, I get a lot of appeals.

Do they appeal to you? - Yes.

What is the type of complaint which you get? - Well, it is this way. The head of the kraal gets a certain area as belonging to him. This is his land. As the land gets ploughed up there may be a little near his kraal which is not ploughed, and then somebody ploughs it and he complains.

Do they have the same plot every year? - Yes, practically. The head of course distributes the land amongst his own family.

Does the head keep the same portion? - Yes, where it is allotted it is given for good.

Now, I want to ask you a few questions about the effects of native customs on the availability of labour to the farmers. The native customs ~~apparently~~ interfere to some extent with the employment of natives. First of all there are the circumcision schools? - That is only once in four years of course.

Can you mention any customs which affect the working

relations of natives and Europeans ?- No, those are the only two, unless you refer to beer drinks and so on.

DR. ROBERTS: You have had a great deal of experience in various parts of the Transvaal. Do you think the native could live on what he earns on the farms and elsewhere if the children did not go out to work ?- Yes, I think so. After all, the children very seldom bring any money home.

But they return money ?- Very seldom.

What about the young men who go out to the mines? That is a different proposition. In most of the locations they could not live unless these men went out to work on the mines.

That is to say, that the natives would be bankrupt if the young men did not go out to the mines to work ?- That is so.

Therefore, his going out to the mines is a necessity ?- Yes.

And nothing that we can do will change that ?- Quite so.

So it is futile to try and change it ?- You can make it less by giving them more ground.

But the amount of ground is not sufficient ?- No.

It is a necessity in the economy of things for the young man to go out ?- Yes.

Now, let us take passes. Do you think the system of passes could be modified in any way ?- Yes, very much so in their own areas, in the native areas.

Now in what way could that system be modified ?- Well, I shall try and explain it. At present I have a location here. It is surrounded by European farmers. A native steps out of the location and he can immediately be run in by the policeman. He is contravening the pass laws, and he is wandering about

without a pass. It is not really necessary to have a strict pass law in the native areas.

Like the Transkei?— That is so. It is only when a native goes out to work in a labour area or going from my district to some other district, for instance, that he should have a pass.

Do you think his receipt for his poll tax would be sufficient?— Yes, it would be sufficient in the native area but not out of the native area.

You gave us your opinion that the Councils if established should not take the place and the power of the chiefs?— No.

And you think that if the chiefs got more power things would be better?— Yes, I think so.

And they might have criminal jurisdiction?— Yes, provided you have a good type of man.

You know that in Bechuanaland ~~xxx~~^{xxx} they have criminal jurisdiction, and that is the worst part of South Africa?— In Bechuanaland you have a lower type of native.

In Bechuanaland they all have criminal jurisdiction, even in the Cape part?—, I think you are wrong there. In the Union part there are only very few chiefs who have criminal jurisdiction.

No, they have certain criminal jurisdiction, and that is the worst part of Bechuanaland?— I agree with you. The worst labourers I have seen come from Bechuanaland.

One would think that where chiefs should have criminal jurisdiction and full powers ----?— Where you have a suitable chief.

Where councils have been established, as in the Transkei, there you have the highest type of native; is not that so?— Yes.

So that my argument that giving the chiefs more power would not have bad effects is quite sound?— Yes,

I think so, but at the same time you must remember this, that conditions in the Transkei are entirely different from what they are in the Transvaal.

At one time they were not. My memory of the Transkei goes back fifty years. In that time what with wars and other troubles they were a very difficult lot to manage ?- Yes, undoubtedly that is so.

Now let us get to another point. Do you not think the native has a business head ?- I do not.

Do you think he has had opportunities ?- Well, I say this, his training has not been for business.

Because I want to tell you that I have met natives who have very good business instincts ?- I know of very few, in fact I do not know of one who has made a success of business. Have you ever met one who has made a success of it?

Yes. I need not give you the names. Now you do not think that they have not had an opportunity ?- In Basutoland they are the only people who can get a licence, but none of them that I know of have been a success so far, and they are supposed to be among the better class of natives in the Union.

At some institutions, I do not know whether you are aware of it, the natives are trained in business habits ?- I do not know of any such institutions in the Transvaal.

But down South ?- Yes, I suppose so.

With regard to the amount of taxes that you draw, would you say that you bring in about £8,000 ?- Yes, that is about the amount of the local tax. That is just the £1. There is a local tax of 10/- for all the location natives, but that is not included.

And to go back to what I said at the beginning, you do not think that that £8,000 would be collected unless they went out to work ?- That is so.

It is collected because the young men go out ?- Yes.

Really, the economic situation is that these men could

not pay the tax without the young men going out ?- That is so.

And that is the chief reason for their going out ?- It is one of the chief reasons.

If they became bankrupt that would be the chief reason. If the natives could not get that £8,000 they would be bankrupt, they could not pay it ?- Yes, I suppose so. The position is that they have to work in order to earn the money.

So the native has to go out to get this money and when he goes out he gets it ?- Yes, and he has to go out to get clothes, too, and so on. The tax is only a small part of what he earns, we must be clear on that.

Quite so. Now, since you have been in this district have you seen any great improvement in the condition of the natives ?- No, I have seen very little improvement.

Would that be due to the poverty of the people ?- It is largely due to the land being worked out, and also to the population increasing..

So that it would be a necessity to get more land ?- Yes. That question is very easily proved in Basutoland. A trading station in the low land in Basutoland is worth nothing today whereas in the past it was worth thousands. All they get today are the crops, and the same applies here.

Is it due to the opposition of the missionaries that you have been prevented from having these big common schools ?- Yes.

Then how does a man like Pashlele get his school ?- I do not think he had these three big mission schools.

He has five ?- Yes, but he did not actually have missionaries living there.

He had the Wesleyans and others ?- Yes, but they were natives who were living there. Here you have the white missionaries. Pashlele, too, was a very strong chief and he could manage it as a result of the influence which he had.

Then they could also manage it in this way - they simply took their children away from the mission schools.

Do you think that if other chiefs would do the same that they would manage it ?- Yes.

Of course, Pashlele was a man of fine quality ?- Yes.

DR. FOURIE: We have heard here of the native who has to go to work. They have to go to work in order to help their tribe ?- Yes.

Do they all bring money back to their kraals ?- Yes.

Are there any cases where they bring nothing back ?- Yes, there are many.

But there are cases where they have to borrow money in order to get back home ?- Very few.

Do you know of cases of young natives working on the farms who when the circumcision school starts simply walk off and cannot be stopped from going there ?- Yes.

You have different tribes here in your district ?- Yes. We have the Mopogax and others as well.

In Lydenburg we had complaints that the native chiefs did not like their followers to leave to go and work elsewhere. Is that so here too ?- Yes.

There were complaints too of natives going away and stealing a lot of things wherever they went ?- Yes, we have these complaints here too of natives going away and stealing. A lot of them are guilty of that kind of thing.

Now who are the best workers that you have got here ?- The Mandabella are the best workers.

Now, in agriculture: there are a lot of natives that follow improved methods. There are natives who still stick to their old habits ?- Yes.

While others again follow the methods of the white men ?- Yes.

Have you noticed that natives following agricultural pursuits take on European methods ?- Yes.

Do you notice that in various ways they still stick to their old superstitions in regard to agriculture? Are there any of the natives here who do that? - Yes, quite a number of them.

And others again do not do that and stick to up-to-date methods? - Yes.

Have you noticed that in regard to some of these old superstitions a number of the natives are still adhering to such things as the doctoring of seed and land? - No, that happens only very rarely now. Of course, at some places they cannot start ploughing ~~the~~ until the chief has told them they can do so. They cannot start ploughing before they see their witch-doctor and it happens sometimes that by waiting in that way they start too late.

There are habits and customs which are still being persisted in? - No, that is only very rare, but at the same time there are places where one does come across that.

Do you think that detribalization is still continuing and that it is getting more and more? - Yes, that is going on everywhere, even in the locations one finds that going on. There are quite a number of natives who are buying land and leaving the tribe.

We have been told that quite a number of young natives have left the locations to go to the towns, being attracted there by the lure of the cities. But another reason has been given, and that is that the economic pressure has forced these natives to leave the rural areas. What would you say would be the greatest cause, the attractions of the towns or the economic pressure? - I should say that the two are about equal.

In regard to the missionaries in your district are

they opposed to the circumcision schools for these young natives ?- Yes, they are opposed to it.

And what about the lobolo system ?- Well, there are a number who are opposed to it, but there are some who look upon it as a good thing.

Have you also noticed that venereal diseases are met with more among the semi-civilised natives than among your tribal natives ?- No, I cannot say that; it is about the same with all of them.

What is the position in regard to beer drinking and beer brewing? Is there a great deal sold ?- Yes, whenever they get a chance they will drink beer and whenever they have got a good crop they drink more.

Do they sell beer ?- No, the law does not allow them; they are not supposed to.

But they do it all the same ?- Yes, they do it all the same; but not on a large scale. Quite a number of their chiefs say it is illegal, and for that reason they will not allow them to sell kaffir beer in the locations. At Rietkloof they cannot sell any at all.

MR. LUCAS: You said that the number of natives in the location was increasing ?- Yes.

Now, is that a natural increase or is it due to immigration ?- That is the natural increase. There are two reasons for that. The one reason is that the farms are getting smaller and the Europeans themselves want the ground and they have not got room for large stocks of natives on their farms.

Now, is there a natural increase through an excess of birth over death ?- Yes, there undoubtedly is. You can see by the number of kraals going up all over the place.

Are there natives in these kraals who have been previously residing in the location ?- Yes, I know by my

books. It has shewn a progressive increase over some years, and there are very few natives coming in from the Pretoria District for instance. There may be an off one here and there, but my books show a progressive increase over seven years.

Might not that increase be due entirely to natives coming in from elsewhere ?- No, I can count them on my fingers the natives coming in from other districts. Every native coming in from another district has to have his clearance pass from the district he comes from.

Do you keep a record ?- Yes. The number is very small, and not worth bothering about.

Now, in regard to the position of old people among the natives, is that as satisfactory now as it used to be ?- No.

What is the charge ?- The young native has not the same respect for the old native as he used to have. I put it down to the breakdown of tribal customs.

I was thinking more of provisions for the old and aged. Is there not an old custom that when a man gets old his family will support him in his old age ?- Well, that is not so to the same extent as it used to be. Of course, you do not get any real poor native among the natives. They support each other. It is quite understood that the family will not allow another member of the family to starve and you get nothing of that. In my district I have had only one application in regard to a native who was down and out and had nothing.

Have you any towns in your area ?- No.

That is likely first of all to be a town problem ?- Yes.

DR. ROBERTS: Can you indicate how it has come about that boys are used in European houses here and in the southern parts of South Africa they use girls entirely and boys are

never allowed to enter the house ?- Yes. Here the native will not allow his children to go into domestic service. The families here are very much against it.

And therefore they engage boys ?- Well, they can only get boys.

Yes, but they will only let the boys go - the fathers and the mothers will only allow the boys to go ?- Yes.

So that is from the native point of view rather than from the European point of view ?- That is so.

Why should it be that from the very start in the whole of the Cape Province only girls are used in domestic service ?- Well, I suppose that the natives there are not as keen as keeping the women apart from the whites as they are here.

It might be that the natives prefer it. Here they want to keep the girls at home ?- Quite so. Here they do not want them to go into domestic service.

But would it not be an excellent thing if the girls could go into domestic service instead of the boys - if the practice here could be reversed ?- Yes. The employing of native girls is going on every day now. As the pressure - the economic pressure - becomes greater you find that the girls go out. Then, further, there is this, with the advent of the Christian native it seems to be that the greater desire, or should we say a greater necessity, is created for the girls to go out to work. I am now referring to girls who are going out into domestic service. As a matter of fact, the farmers too now want girls. People cannot get them in the stads so they go to the labour areas to get them. Things are very different today from what they used to be.

You see that change going on ?- Yes, I do.

And do you welcome it ?- Yes, I certainly welcome it.

you see for one thing it will release so many more boys. I do not think it is a good thing to have native boys working in domestic service.

MR. LUCAS: You have heard what happens in other areas where women go out as day labourers for harvesting and such classes of work. Do you have the same sort of thing here ?- Yes, we have a few cases like that. Sometimes they cut wheat and so on, and at threshing time.

DR. FOURIE: But the farmers - do you employ the boys or the girls in the kitchens ?- Mostly girls or piccanins. A farmer does not use a big house-boy on his farm.

MR. MOSTERT: You have in this area 192,000 acres of arable ground ?- Yes.

And you tell us that it is only the old men and women who work those lands ?- Yes, and the children.

It is obvious that the yield per acre is very small. ?-, That is so.

Now if a number of those boys who go out to the Reef to work could be induced to help, to stay here, would not that improve matters ?- Yes, it certainly would.

A yield of five bags per acre is also very small if the lands are properly worked ?- I do not follow.

A yield of five bags, would that be big ?- Yes.

It is owing to the land being badly worked -- ?- And worked out.

It is due to that there is no yield per acre ?- Yes.

Your surplus labour could be used on the land ?- Yes. I do not quite follow.

And therefore that area would bring you in about one million bags, which would be sufficient to keep those people ?- Yes, it would keep those people who are there.

You have, in other words, a redundant population as far as your soil is concerned ?- To a certain extent, yes. It is very difficult to say.

There are roughly about 8,000 of your boys away working ?- No, between 5,000 and 6,000 boys - adults; the 8,000 are our taxpaying natives.

Well now, if only 1,000 of these boys were to remain in the location ?- Yes, but do not forget this, 1,000 of these boys would have to have ploughs and proper instruments with which to work. Of course, if they have they would improve matters.

If they would only improve their methods in the right direction ?- Yes, if they did that they could undoubtedly increase the yield very considerably.

THE CHAIRMAN: You know that there is still normally in force a law by which no-one can have more than five families on his land ?- Yes.

Is that still working ?- No.

Are there cases where farmers have more than five families on their land ?- Yes.

Is the labour force on some of these farms economically used ?- Yes, I should say that farmers in a big way use their labour force quite economically and they get the best out of it.

Have you cases here where one farm is occupied by natives on a labour tenancy basis, that labour to be given on another farm ?- Yes, we have that.

Is that common ?- Yes. You will get a rich high veld farmer from Bethal or Ermelo who owns a farm down there and he gets a farm here for his native labour.

The natives who use cattle for buying land, do they over-graze that ⁰⁴gr~~and~~ when they have bought it ?- Yes,

I am sorry to say they do.

They are in a position to keep sufficient cattle to over-graze ?- Yes.

So that the fact of their selling cattle with a view to buying land does not really stop over-grazing ?- No; I have a striking instance here. At Rietkloof during the last seven years I have been trying to make them buy ground, but the Chief being weak they have not got to that stage. Last year out of 5,000 head of cattle they must have lost between 1200 and 1300, and those 1200 ^{or} and 1300 head could have bought them a farm and they would have saved all this, but, as you know, you cannot reason with a native. He has not got any business instinct.

Yes, that is so, but after all the natives regard their cattle as a bank, is not that so ?- Yes, and lobolo.

Do not they realise that they are breeding cattle to be killed in the next drought ?- No, they do not. You get the same at Geluk's Location, where they lost thousands of cattle.

MR. LUCAS: Major Hunt could have saved them their losses had he been allowed to sell ?- Yes.

The natives were willing to sell ?- Yes, I know, but here the natives do not want to do that.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is ~~xxxxxx~~ the case that in droughts they lose large numbers ?- Yes.

Of ~~thax~~ course, those droughts somewhat restore the balance between stock and carrying capacity ?- Yes, that is so. Before dipping, of course, disease kept on reducing the numbers, but now we have compulsory dipping in the location and we do not find that so much nowadays.

The native has not realised that fact, has he ?- No, he has not. In the past at Schoonoord there was no dipping and the cattle simply kept ~~xxxxxx~~ on dying, but when the

dipping was brought in they increased by thousands.

So it really comes to this, that the dip has encouraged over-grazing ?- Yes.

I am not suggesting that you should not dip. Land which has once been distributed is claimed for the life of the man who has it ?- Yes.

In your area does that cause a lot of land to lie waste? - Yes, a certain amount. You see the overflow from the locations all go to the farms, and they retain their right to the land in the location and they even have a hut there, and they are still registered as living in the location, although they are not there. They do not want to forego the privilege of living there, and it is only as a result of circumstances that they are forced to go out. They retain all their rights.

They are absentee owners ?- Yes.

And they have ear-marked their claim ?- Yes. To show how strong the force of circumstances is, if they are registered in the location they have to pay 10/- local tax and £1. Rather than registering themselves on the farm where they only pay £1 they keep their registration in the location and they pay 30/-.

That is claim licence ?- Yes.

Those lands are not cultivated, but they are grazed over by the stock of the location generally ?- Yes. In certain parts once the land is ploughed it never has the same grazing value as before. That is an experience which many have had.

But when over-grazing takes place the land is trodden out and the value is diminished for all purposes ?- Yes, that is so.

And it reduces the carrying capacity of the reserves ?- Quite, that must be so, naturally.

With the type of agriculture which is now being carried on by natives, and with the conditions as to rainfall and

circumstances affecting agriculture generally in your area, do you think your area can carry the population which is domiciled there ?- Not in the native locations.

I am referring to native reserves. Therefore, if that population has to be carried on that land improved methods of agriculture and stock-farming are needed ?- Yes, quite so. You cannot go against nature. In those locations in my area they have a rainfall of ten to twelve inches, which is not by any means enough. It is not enough to get a good crop. It does not matter what the conditions are unless you get the rain from above, and unless you have the rain from above you will not get a crop. If they have a large area that can keep stock they are better off under the right conditions. It is the worst district now for my tax, for the simple reason that we have had droughts and there is no price for cattle, sheep or goats. In the olden days when they wanted to pay their pay, or if they were short of food, they simply sold a beast. That is the principal reason why the old men come to me. They tell me that they cannot pay, and they say "we cannot get any price for our cattle."

In those locations would you say that the land is being worked as well as it could be in the circumstances ?- Yes. You might improve it a bit. By better ploughing you might retain the moisture more. One year you could plough it over, and leave it fallow; the next, you could do better.

And by having rotation crops ?- Yes, you would do better still.

Does that also apply to stock-rearing ?- Yes, if you could let it lie idle for a few years you would of course get better grazing.

That would require an extensive alteration of native methods ?- Yes, I have seen it done. Land is left to rest

for a few years and then it is not the same land. Now the land cannot be any good because it is stamped down at once and it cannot bear anything on it. The area is blank even if you get good rains today. That is the whole trouble.

Everything is trodden down and trodden out.

With regard to the rest of the area, improved methods of agriculture would effect a great deal? - In some parts. In Pokwani, for instance.

Agriculture in those parts is still very primitive? - Yes, very much so. If they all manured the land they could increase their crops and they would do a great deal better.

If they farmed on the basis of the average Europeans that would still increase the crops considerably? - Yes, in certain parts.

You said that one of the reasons for the bad crops is that the men go away? - Yes.

Do you think that the men practise better methods than the women do? - The native works with a cultivator and he sees the use of deeper ploughing. He has learned that.

Do they plough properly? - Some do.

Do many do so? - They are mostly away, but if they are at home, some do.

We found in other districts that when the native comes back to the farm, although he knows these things, he simply falls back into his old ways and old habits? - Yes, the majority of them do this, but some do not.

Then again, the natives will have to be trained to apply these ideas of better methods to their own ground? - Whom are you going to train - the men or the women? The man of course must go to work.

Well, I am not a farmer, but it seems to me that it would be possible to train the men to do better work? - If you see that then training may help.

The mere bringing in of the men would not improve the yield ?- No, it is not that. You must improve the methods of working.

Now, you told us that there is a little credit given as between the stores and the natives ?- That is so.

On what basis do they do business ?- Mostly in cash, and exchange in mealies and grain.

Do they use cash to any great extent ?- Yes. Natives who come back from their work generally have money with them.

Comparing cash with exchange, which would be the most important? Would the bulk of the trade be done in cash or in exchange ?- I should say that most of the trade is done in cash.

Not in exchange of grain ?- No. They do not produce enough for themselves, but of course this year they have produced enough, but ordinarily they do not.

The natives who have bought ground of their own, can one say that they are individually better off than the average natives ?- Yes, they are much better off; there is no comparison.

In their mode of living, do they live very much better ?- Yes, they have their tea, and coffee, and sugar; they live in square huts, and generally speaking their mode of living is very much better.

Do they wear better clothing ?- Yes.

And do they have furniture ?- Yes, they even go in for beds.

And do they go in for travelling ?- Not to any extent.

Are there any ways in which they approximate more to the European modes of living ?- Yes, in their farming methods they do, to a large extent.

No, in their mode of living ?- They spend more, and they have more to spend.

MR. LUCAS: Do they have a banking account ?- One of them has.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any other respects ?- They dress better, they buy better implements, ploughs and so on, and they go in for tea and sugar.

Comparing them with the reasonably well-to-do Chief living under tribal conditions, would you say that they live better than the chief ?- Well, the chief has meat every day if he wants it; he can afford to have it, and he has what he wants. But these people also live very well.

But as regards things which have to be bought at the shop?- I should say that they spend more than the chiefs, although all my chiefs are civilised. You do not get the blanket type any more; he has gone.

Even then they spend more than the chiefs ?- Well, I do not know, the chief here spends as much as any of them.

But you are mentioning rather exceptional chiefs ?- Quite so; some of the chiefs even have motor-cars.

It is an exceptional chief ?- Oh no, there are quite a few like that.

And they live like these natives who are individual owners ?- Most of my chiefs of course are acting chiefs, they are not proper chiefs, and the acting chief cannot spend the tribal money in the same way as a chief can.

Do you think that a semi-educated native is a factor in weakening tribal authority ?- Yes, I do.

He has not the same respect for the tribal customs as the other people have ?- I should think that he ignores them to a large extent.

You said just now that some natives do not want to go home without money. Does that happen frequently ?- Yes.

That they do not save enough money in the town to come home ?- Yes, most of the natives when they come back from work take advances straight away from the labour agents. They come back today, and go tomorrow to the labour agents to borrow money. They do not want to go home empty: that is the position.

Why do you think that they go empty to the labour agents ?- Because there is no-one else they can borrow money from.

Why do not they have any money; they have been earning money ?- They have spent their money in clothes and on taxes.

And they want to have some cash to bring home ?- Yes, and they may want to buy food or a present for their wives.

Do you think many stay away entirely because they have no money ?- Oh, any number do.

Do you think that that may be an important cause of detribalization ?- Yes.

Do you know whether women living in urban locations like Middelburg go to the kraals for their confinement ?- I could not say; it is out of my ~~xxxxxx~~ district.

About the appointment of chiefs; if the Government deposed a bad chief in the direct line of descent, and appointed another man who is a good chief, how would the tribe react ?- In the olden days they would not have agreed, but I think they are beginning to realise that it is better to have no chief at all than a bad one.

But if they are given another chief ?- Well, they are beginning to realise that it is better to have a good chief than a bad one.

The sentiment that "blood of blood" is beginning

?- No, I do not think that would work. You see you would have to give him the same powers as a chief.

In dealing with petty crimes, stock-thefts, thefts of growing crops, etc, do you think the advantage of the tribal discipline leads to easier detection ?- Yes, I think so.

And to more direct application of justice ?- as they see it, of course ?- Yes.

What sort of penalties do they inflict ?- Generally they fine them a beast.

Even for the theft of crops and things like that ?- Yes. I have one example in my mind in regard to the different methods. It is in regard to the case of a well-known European in Basutoland. A young native whom that European had known from a child was cheeky to him. This young native came back from the Rand and cheeked him, and eventually the European gave him a good hiding. Well, the young native reported the matter to the chief and the chief wrote to the man. He asked the European whether he wanted the case to go before the Commissioner at Maseru or whether he was prepared to accept his (the Chief's) jurisdiction. The white man agreed to accept the Chief's jurisdiction. Well, the case was heard and the chief fined him £1 for beating the native, and then he fined the native £1 for being cheeky to the white man. There is a tremendous difference between our methods and theirs.

DR. ROBERTS: Did the chief get both the sovereigns ?- Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN:

/What about the boys who abscond; do they send money home ?- No. Once the boy has gone he never sends anything home. You can say that that is the general rule.

I am talking of the young lads who abscond ?- No, they do not send anything home either.

There is another point I want to put to you, can you

often find ?- No, that is an exception.

Now, there is a great deal of discontent among the natives. Is not that perhaps due to the effect of the stoppage of tribal wars, better hygienic methods, etc., and also because of the growth of the European population, the confines are being narrowed and they can no longer trek so extensively from one place to another, as they used to do in the past ?- Do I understand that you think that that is one reason of the discontent ?

What I would mean is this, do they feel that they have not got the same room about them ?- Yes, they certainly do that. I have known in several cases they say "we are all closed in now; we are in a kraal now."

MR. LUCAS: When you said that the population was 40,000, did you include in that the 5,000 or 6,000 who are away ?- Yes.

Tax tours have been discontinued ?- Yes.

Do you think it is a good thing ?- No, it is a bad thing.

Why do you say that ?- Well, in the first place so far we have not been getting the revenue.

You lose more revenue than you save through not travelling ?- Yes.

You lose much more ?- Yes, a great deal more.

And for what other reason is it bad ?- Well, most of my district is a farming district. When I go out collecting taxes I go round and I hear whatever grievances people have, I hear the grievances that natives have, and in similar ways I hear the grievances which the farmers have. If you are on the spot you can bring both parties together, and you often can find a way of settling matters. Well, now that the tax tours have been abolished you cannot do that any more. The

natives themselves have many disputes about their lands or about their chiefs. If you are on the spot and hold a meeting you get into touch with the natives, and you do not do that now. I have to visit the locations of course, but that is a different thing. When you are on a tax tour you are there for two or three days on the spot and you have your talks with the natives and you find out everything, but now you get away as soon as you can.

You think it is false economy in every way ?- Yes.

How do you let the natives in your area know of any change in the law affecting them ?- I hold a meeting of all the chiefs and any of the natives who wish to come can do so. It is compulsory for the chiefs to come.

MAJOR ANDERSON: This large number of natives who go out to work, I suppose that a certain proportion go quite willingly ?- Yes.

They want to go for the variety of things ?- Well, there is very little forced labour. It is only circumstances that make them go, ~~xxxxx~~ shortage of money to pay their tax with.

Is the proportion that goes out willingly larger than the proportion that is forced out by economic pressure ?- Oh, the willing proportion is the larger.

If they had more land and there was more food, and the reserves could carry more, a large number would still go out ?- Yes, a large number would still go out, but not to the same extent.

THE COMMISSION AT THIS STAGE ADJOURNED FOR LUNCH.

ON RESUMING.

MR. NICHOLAAS LEENDERS BAUMGARTEN VAN VEEN, called and

Examined:

THE CHAIRMAN: You are Town Clerk of Middelburg ?- Yes.

Have you an urban native location here ?- Yes.

Has that been proclaimed under the Urban Areas Act ?- Yes.

Well, we shall be pleased if you will give us an indication of the conditions under which natives are allowed to live in the location ?- We have forty eight Municipal houses there. These houses were built by the Municipality some many years ago, and they are let to the natives at a rental of 7/6d. per month. Then we have stands which we let to the natives and we allow them to build their own houses on those stands. There are 165 of these stands which at present are let. The stands are let at a rental of 2/6d. per month. The native can build his own house there.

Of what materials are the houses built ?- The houses which the Municipality has built are constructed of wood and iron. They are not lined, nor have they a ceiling.

Are all the stands of the same size ?- Yes, all the stands are of the same size.

What is the size, can you tell us ?- The stands are 120 x 60 feet.

Now, do these natives pay anything else to the Municipality in addition to the fees of which you have told us ?- Yes, we render a sanitary service for which each man who rents a stand pays 2/- per month.

Are there separate latrines for each stand ?- No, we have communal latrines.

With regard to water, what service of water have you there ?- They obtain water from a spring, in fact from two springs. The one spring is at Jacobsfontein, and the other one has no name. It is a spring east of the location.

These springs have been protected by the Council by means of a concrete approach - a reservoir. They draw the water from those springs and the sides have been fenced in to keep the cattle off.

They have no water, have they, with which they could irrigate any of the gardening on their stands ?- No, there is nothing for that purpose.

Now, are there any facilities for recreation there ?- The natives themselves have constructed a tennis court at the location. They have been allotted a piece of ground near the road-bridge for sport purposes, but I am not quite sure whether they make use of the ground, though it is there for that purpose.

How far is the location from the centre of the town ?- I think it is a mile and a half away from the centre of the town.

Is there a Location Advisory Council ?- Yes.

These men whose names have been put down as representing the location, are they members of that Council ?- Yes. They are elected by the Town Council and there are three others who are elected by popular vote.

MR. LUCAS: Is there any lighting provided in the location ?- No, there is no light in the location.

Have you got a lodger's tax there ?- No, we have not.
THE CHAIRMAN:

/Have you got any details about the size of these houses, how many rooms and so on ?- The Municipal houses have two rooms and a kitchen.

MR. LUCAS: You have very large town lands ?- We have 12,718 morgen.

Do you give these natives any facilities for land to plough on ?- No.

THE CHAIRMAN: And do you give them any grazing ?- Yes, they have grazing.

MR. LUCAS: Is it contemplated that you will be likely to give them land to plough on ?- The question of giving the natives plots - agricultural plots - has been mooted, but it has been found impossible, on account of the expense, to grant them these plots.

What expense ?- Fencing, for instance.

Would not the natives be glad to assist in the putting up of the fencing ?- They would be, but they have not got the means.

Would not they soon be able to pay that from what they would get off the land ?- I do not think they would be able to. Judging from my experience I should say not.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any limit to the amount of grazing they are allowed on the Town Lands ?- At present, no; do you mean generally?

Yes ?- Thirty head of large stock and fifty small stock, but that is not enforced.

Do they make use of that ?- Yes, they do.

Have you any idea of the number of livestock which they have on the commonage ?- In respect to the location I can give you the figures. There are 155 cattle, 79 donkeys, ten horses, and 24 pigs.

MR. LUCAS: You said that from your experience you did not think that they could make anything out of the plot of land to pay towards the expenses of fencing. Now what experience have you had of that ?- When I say that they will not make anything out of their plot of land I mean that the plots of land which would be granted would not in all probably be so large as to allow them to make anything out of the gardens.

Do they make anything out of their spare land on their present erven ?- Very little. Of course, they cultivate all they have.

Do they sell anything ?- No. They use the vegetables they grow for their own consumption. ~~Remittixix~~ Possibly they

may sell a little.

They use what they have got ?-. Yes.

If they use the small plot which you give them, then if they were given more land on the town lands, and if they were to use that, would not they be able substantially to increase their income ?- No, it would mean that they might possibly get one or two bags of mealies from the Town Lands, but they would ~~xxxx~~ not have any irrigation, and the sale of vegetables generally on the market would not pay them~~x~~. As a matter of fact they generally do not sell their vegetables on the market.

The income which you show in your statement for a household is very low ?- Yes, we have had to rely on the information which we get from the natives themselves. In my statement I show as an average monthly income per male adult wage-earner £2.5.3, per female adult wage-earner 14/-, making a total average monthly income per household £2.14.0. I give as an average number per household 5.7.

Have you any reason to think that the information which you have got from the natives in regard to their income is not accurate ?- In some instances it might not be accurate. You see, you have this to bear in mind. It is possible the the native is suspicious. He may think, when we ask~~x~~ for this information, that we want to levy taxes, or he may be in arrear with his rent and he may think that in asking these particulars we want to summons him for the rent, and that being so they may perhaps not give quite the full facts of the position.

But from what you know of them, do you think that this figure is seriously wrong ?- No, I think it is not. I think it could be taken as fairly reflecting the average income per household.

MR. MOSTERT: What is the value of the ground which you let to the natives at 2/6d. per month? At how much is the site valued? - We have not valued the sites, but I think the sites would be worth about £20 each.

Is that your own valuation? - Yes.

In that case you do not provide anything; you do not provide water free? - They pay nothing for water. They have the water which we have protected for them. They have to carry the water, but we make no charge.

DR. ROBERTS: You have a recreation ground beside the bridge? - Yes.

Arising out of that, you have produced three witnesses whom you wish to give evidence here, or do they desire to give evidence, these natives? - I do not know.

What I mean to say is this. They are not appointed by the natives, these three people; they are appointed by you? - As a matter of fact, I do not know which natives are giving evidence at all.

CHAIRMAN: Have the natives themselves selected these three who are to give evidence? - I do not know.

DR. ROBERTS: Are these three the men nominated by the Council to the Advisory Council? - Yes.

Personally I would rather have heard the other three. You have a native hospital, have you not? - Yes.

And I understand that that is fairly well run? - It is run by the Hospital Committee.

I understand that the doctors give a good deal of their free time to it? - Our Medical Officer of Health attends at the location every fortnight. We have established a clinic there.

And that is being well run? - Yes, it is being very well run. There is nothing left to be desired.

Do you keep separate accounts for natives, as desired by the Government ?- Yes, we are compelled to.

Could you tell us what the total amount of receipts is ?- Including sanitary fees, £612. It is made up of stand rents £408.

Would you tell us what you think you do for that, for this £408 and £204? You do not give us your expenditure ?- We charge the Native Revenue Account with £80 for carrying out the sanitary services. We charge £150 for repairs to native houses, that is municipal houses. These are all estimated amounts.

They may be above, or below ?- Possibly below. We charge £38 for administration. I think the scale laid down by the Auditors is 10 per cent of the first £1,000. So this approximately is 5%. We charge also interest and redemption charges on the £1200 drawn from loan funds, for the building.

How much do you charge ?- This is an old-standing debt. 7 per cent is the interest and then the redemption is on a sinking fund basis. You can say about £128 roughly per year. There are other charges, such as salaries, which we charge £12 on. £12 native wages. We have a native who attends at the location. Then we have I think for improvements, water supply improvements, - we have £10 available for that, and then we have permission to charge £10 for two native cots for the hospital, and one or two other items like that. The interest and redemption charges are £112. We have provided another £30 for refuse collection depots. Native wages are £18, superintendent's salary £12, that is a proportion of the salary. We have permission to contribute £30 towards the Local Child Welfare Society for a native nurse.

At the clinic ?- No, that is not at the clinic. This native nurse when appointed will of course work in conjunction with the Medical Officer of Health.

That is in the neighbourhood of £600, slightly short of it ?- Yes, we show a surplus of £17 over expenditure.

Then you say with regard to the general tax, that is the poll tax and the pass fees, that that should come to you ?- To the Municipality for the benefit of the natives in urban areas.

That is the £1 ?- Yes, I mean £1 for all the natives who reside in the location.

How many reside in the location ?- 190 male adults.

And how much would the pass fees be ?- Approximately £30 per month.

That is another £550 ?- Yes.

How would you spend that money ?- We would spend it on housing.

Better houses ?- Yes, chiefly, and sports grounds, roads, and water supply.

They have not got any pipe water supply ?- No, nor have they proper sanitary facilities.

You do not think that the £612 would meet that ?- No, not by a long way.

Would you urge that that should be general throughout the country ?- Yes, that is my opinion.

Your opinion is that this development fund should be given to the various municipalities ?- Yes.

To use for the natives ?- For the benefit of the natives within their areas.

MR. MOSTERT: Has that matter been brought up ?- I do not know.

You are in favour of the Municipality getting the pass fees ?- Yes, and the £1 tax. I am in favour of both.

education and such matters, and for police ?- Well, as I have said - the expenditure in connection with police is 2½ millions. That is what I meant to say. I find also in connection with police that there were convictions of £113,000 in respect of natives; only £4,000 in respect of Europeans, and £16,000 in respect of other Non-Europeans. It would appear that a greater proportion of the expenditure in connection with the police was in respect of natives. (Witness did not make it clear whether the above-mentioned figures were in connection with expenditure or in connection with numbers of people convicted). I also find that the native patients in mental hospitals amount to 3383 against 4400 Europeans.

You will remember the difference in the numbers of population ?- Yes, I do. I find that the total native population is 5,439,000, whereas the total European population is 1,798,000. If one takes these figures it must be clear that the European population is taxed to a very much greater extent than the native is. I do not mean proportionately, but I mean that the Europeans have to pay in connection with the administration which is mostly in regard to natives and in regard to the Native Affairs Department and native education, and a good proportion of the general tax on the European population is spent on native matters. The tax brought up by the natives only amounts to about one million pounds. It is quite evident that the one million pounds collected from the natives is not sufficient to pay for all the facilities and amenities which they get.

Do you know that it is 3½ millions which is collected from the natives, if you take the indirect taxation as well as the direct taxation? Now, if you take the police, let me put this point to you. If you take the police in Capetown

alone you will find that there are a great many more police there than in the whole of the Transkei. There are only 270 police in the whole of the Transkei and only a hand-full in the whole of the native territories. I am combating your idea that the native does not contribute enough taxes. I find that the amount which would be attributable to the native on a fair and equitable arrangement is $3\frac{1}{2}$ millions of the expenditure of the country, and the amount he contributes in direct and indirect taxation is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ millions. So that he is a little short of that reckoning, and if you take away this million which you want for local purposes, education would completely fall to the ground? I am afraid that the information which I have, which only came this morning, has not enabled me to go fully into the subject. My experience in this area is that the native in this part of the country earns so little that you cannot tax them any more. It therefore follows that the European who has an obligation to the native must be taxed for the benefit of that native. There is no way out of it. I do not know why the income of the natives in this area is so small. It may be, and I dare say it is so, that the wages are low. There is a large influx of natives into this area from the very large rural area which we have around us here. These natives drift into the town. We have been told that they are attracted by the amenities of the town. Perhaps they are also attracted by the houses of entertainment, and especially by the food which they can get here. In any case, they come here in large numbers. We know that at certain times and during certain years the native in Sekukuniland has no food, so they ~~kaxaxia~~ come to the town for the sake of the food they can get and for the sake of the prospect of the wage which they think they can earn. These natives are always coming into the town. Of course, the labour demands of a small town like Middelburg are not

very considerable, and the result is that if a great deal of labour is offering the wages come down. I think you will agree with me that when the wages come down economically it is not sound. My point is this, that the more the native obtains in town in wages, the more you can tax him, - within reason of course; and the more he earns the more he spends, and the more comes back to you. The better the income in respect to the location, the greater improvements you are able to make, and also if the native makes a decent income you will be able to charge adequate rents and fees, and it speaks for itself that you are able to give better facilities. At present we are not able to give him all the facilities which we should like. I put this to you, what can you do with £612 when £112 of that goes in interest and redemption, £80 for the running of sanitary services, £12 for wages, another £80 for native wages, and another £30 for administration. If you add those figures then I ask you how can you out of what you have left give the natives a pipe water supply and how can you build houses for them? If you build a house, the least you can build for is £60. Then again what is the good of building five houses - it does not help anybody. You build a few and nobody is helped, but if you want to do anything you have to build at least 100 houses, and that is only to go on with. That will cost you £6,000, and that money we would have to borrow. We have to 5 per cent interest on that money and that loan has to be repaid in twenty years or at the very longest in thirty years. What rents can we charge? 10/- or 12/- per month to cover our interest and redemption charges on the money we have borrowed does not lead us anywhere. As a matter of fact, the natives cannot pay that; they even grumble when they have to pay 7/6d. You see, the trouble is that there is a great

deal of poverty in the locations here. Supposing we had to borrow this £6,000, or rather let us suppose that we borrow £12,000 and that we build 200 houses. It would mean that our present loan would have to be increased by £12,000. Now, then we come along and we want to expand in other directions.

In what other directions?— Well, we want a x2 water supply for the town. We have to go to the Administrator and we say "we want another £15,000 for an adequate water supply for Middelburg". The Administrator goes into it, and he says "No, your loan debt is too big already, you cannot have more money". I am putting up these points to prove that all this sort of thing retards progress. The money which we borrow for native housing becomes a charge against the assets of the Municipality or the local authority. Of course, we have our own trading accounts; we have town lands; we have churches, we have buildings, we have all sorts of other assets which have to be pledged as security against these loans. Now, supposing for a moment that we cannot recover sufficient money from the natives to pay interest and redemption charges on the money borrowed for housing for the natives, where is all that money to come from to meet the short-fall? We must take it out of the municipal coffers. It is a charge on the white community and it really comes down to this, that the native is not in a position to pay adequate rental.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is it for that reason that you think that the proceeds from the general tax should come to the Municipality?— Yes, I think so.

Why?— Well, it gives us a chance to give these natives some of the facilities which I have been describing. The Urban Areas Act says that the Municipality must provide suitable housing, and if the Minister is satisfied that the local authority is not providing such suitable houses, the

Minister will step in and say "You have to do it, you have to build houses, to have to build hostels and other things in the location."

Have you provided any houses in the location?— Yes, we have a certain number. It is all very well to say "you have to do it", but where is the money to come from? On the other hand if you do not do it the Minister comes along and he does it himself, and he says "You have to pay me back. The Local Authority says "I have not got the money; I cannot tax my people more than they are taxed already, and I cannot do any more." The Minister says "Very well, I shall have a special tax levied on all the rateable property in your Municipality." He does not worry about you, he simply imposes a tax. As it is, we are taxed to a great extent. If the native earns a reasonable wage, then he can pay a reasonable rent, and you can perhaps provide him with housing facilities.

DR. ROBERTS: Are not you rather arguing in a vicious circle? The fact of the matter is that he does not earn sufficient wages?— No, and he never will so long as there is an influx from the rural areas.

If there is an influx, that influx is taking place to provide money in Sekukuni land, to pay the taxes there?— Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: You want the taxes to be used for the purpose of helping to pay the wages? The wages are low. Now, if you take the money out of the coffers of the State and give it to the natives ----~~ix~~ Well, all I can say is that it is a vicious method of economy?— I did not mean it in that sense.

If you want the Central Government to give you money with which the natives in your urban location can be made to keep body and soul together then obviously you are giving that as a subvention to local wages. I do not see how you can get

away from it ?- That may be.

DR. ROBERTS: It is an interesting proposal that this capitation fee should go to the Municipality and I am sure that you believe that they will ~~do it well~~ use it well ?- Yes, I am sure they will.

You would not think that a shortfall such as you have in your Town Council might lead to the income being taken to cover your own shortfall ? Today your income which you get from the native is bigger than the amount you spend, is not that so ?- I might explain that. It is not sound policy to spend every sixpence you receive when you have no reserves, and at the present moment we certainly have no reserves. There are always contingencies during the year. You may have an outbreak of sickness, when you may have to spend a great deal of money in preventing the spread of disease, and those are things which you have to be careful about. Therefore, I say that you must not spend all your money at once.

MR. MOSTERT: You carry that £17 as a sort of contingency ?- It goes to the credit of the native revenue account. Now, supposing that account stands in credit to an amount of say £300. You would be able to utilise that money by providing some facilities for the natives, such as latrines for instance. We had~~x~~ to do that some years ago.

THE CHAIRMAN: How long has the location been under the Native Urban Areas Act ?- Since the inception of the Act.

What date was that ?- That was in 1923.

Have you worked on a credit balance every year, on a favourable balance ?- Yes, we had accumulated a small sum up to about two or three years ago, when it was £380, which we spent on latrines, and then the amount was again wiped out.

What is the present accumulated balance ?- I think it is

in the neighbourhood of perhaps £30 to £100.

MR. ROBERTS: Would you be in favour of an Inspector, say for the Transvaal, who would have the power to go round and inquire into what we were trying to get at just now, look into your books and indicate where he thinks that your expenditure has not been justifiable?— If it were necessary. Our accounts are audited by the Government Auditor.

I do not mean the man of figures, I mean the man of soul, a man who would go about in a kindly way?— You mean a man to see whether the money is spent in a proper manner? Well, we are not allowed to spend anything unless it is authorised by the Minister. That being so, I do not think it is necessary. Supposing we want to contribute £30 to the cost of the native nurse, we cannot do that unless we have the authority of the minister.

You know that in the native urban areas act provision is made for such a man?— Yes, I know that, but it seems that at present it is not necessary.

MR. LUCAS: Has there been any question at any time of giving the native security of tenure, long leases, or freehold?— No, not up to the present.

Has your Council considered the question at any time of establishing a township in which the natives could have freehold title?— No. I would just like to say that with our small income or to augment the small income, the only other thing which it seems we can do is to try to sell kaffir beer, or perhaps to give bioscope entertainments. The selling of kaffir beer is quite a problem and one does not know whether it is advisable or not. One is not sure whether it is advisable to do, or whether it is profitable, and I have no experience of these bioscope entertainments. But these seem to me to be the only avenues which we can set up to increase the income

of the native location.

MR. MOSTERT: You were saying that it would cost you £60 per house if you were to go in for a building scheme under which you would put up x 200 dwellings ?- Yes.

What would be the size of such a dwelling ?- That would be a two- roomed house, the main living room would have a fireplace, on which they could cook. That room would be approximately 15 x 10 feet, and the bedroom would be 10 x 10.

What would that be built of ?- It would be built of brick, locally burned brick.

What would you charge for that house ?- It would depend on what your interest and redemption charges are going to be, but I think it would not be less than 10/- per month.

THE CHAIRMAN: You are talking about building 200 additional houses. Would you require that number ?- Well, there are 1300 natives here to be provided for.

Are not they housed with their employers ?- Yes, the majority are, but I am quite sure that there must be natives housed in the town on premises other than those in which they are employed. They are supposed to live in the native locations but we have not got the housing facilities, and the result is that quite a number cannot live there. At the present moment we have 165 and 48 ----- just about 200 stands occupied.

That figure of 200 houses which you gave us, was that just to get the basis for a figure or has an actual estimate been made of the needs of Middelburg in this regard ?- When I speak of 200 houses I mean that we would have to raze to the ground those that are there now. Then we would have to erect 200 new houses.

Do I understand you to mean that you require 200 new houses here ?- If you want to house your natives suitably and adequately you certainly want at least 200 houses here.

Do you think that there will be 200 families or single natives requiring accommodation ?- Yes, certainly. At the very least 200 here.

But a single native would not require a house ?- No, but you would need a hostel for the single natives.

You would have between 100 and 150 native families living in among the European population ?- That is so.

That is in spite of the Native Urban Areas Act ?- Yes.

That is the position today ?- Yes.

Where do they live today ?- I suppose that they mostly live on the property of their employers.

Do you mean that a native who is employed in a house of a European lives on the premises with his wife and children ?- Yes, that would be so in some cases.

But not as many as 100 cases ?- I could not tell you to what extent the native families live in town.

Do you want to replace the wood and iron houses that are in the location now ?- Yes, my idea is that the houses which are in the location now should be razed and the whole location should be re-built.

HENDRIK JACOBUS WALTERS,
JOHN PRENTICE McLEES,
DR. JACK ABRAHAM LEVITT,
VICTOR PERCY ROSE,

called and examined:

THE CHAIRMAN: In what capacity are you appearing before us ?- (Mr. Walters): I am Secretary of the Middelburg Hospital. My Board is anxious that we should say something on the Municipal point of finance, so far as the hospital is concerned. You know that the Province

contributes towards the funds of the hospital for every native patient at the rate of 2/6d. per day. Our native hospital was opened on the 1st of April, but we took in natives from the 15th of March. Our patients up to the 31st of July were: paying patients, 20 days; part-paying patients, 3 days; free patients, 562 days, and privileged patients 8 days, making a total in all of 593 days. Now, we are not in a position to give you separate figures as regards costs, because our administration is all one and all the accounts are kept in one. All the cooking is done from the main hospital and we use the same staff to attend at the native hospital, except that we have two native orderlies there, who have been with us a long time and who help specially at the native hospital. Now, our cost per day per patient for this period from the 1st of January until the 31st of July, for the whole concern, is 16/8d. per day, inclusive of Europeans as well as natives. Now, the people who have paid there - there were four natives who were paid for; two were paid for by the Municipality and one was paid for by a private person, and another was paid for at half rate by his employer. So it is very difficult for us to say how we are going to come out at 2/6d. per day. That means that the European population will have to foot this bill for the natives as well as for the whites. The patients that we have there do not come only from the town, but they come from all over the district. We have got four beds in the hospital, four native beds actually, but we have had since it is opened to make provision for more, and sometimes we are running as many as eight beds. Of course, I may say that our native hospital is built for eight beds, but we have not had sufficient money to pay for the extra equipment, and then we are not sure as to how we shall come out financially.

DR. ROBERTS: Do you take women as well as men? - We have two wards, one for men and one for women. The point was that my Board was thinking that probably the Commission might take into consideration the feasibility of the Government levying a small tax on the natives in the whole of the district, even if it is only ^{1/-} ~~one~~ a year, or of the Government providing some more money for this native hospital. The Commission will no doubt appreciate the fact that the whole of this hospital, the cost of the whole of this hospital, is practically borne by the white people here. When we built this hospital it cost us £8275/-, and the equipment we put into it, exclusive of medicines and things like that, to run it, -- and that was quite a considerable amount, -- cost us £120, so that the total is £9475.1. We received, when we built this hospital, £100 from the Native Affairs Department, for which we were very grateful, and we received £25 from the native deferred pay, Also a very nice ~~kaxpitaki~~ contribution. The province gave us £400, and the rest of the money was provided by the Ladies' Committee. So we received ~~£25~~ £525, and £422 was provided by the Ladies' Committee.

The natives who are accommodated in this hospital, are they residents of Middelburg only? - Oh no, they come from outside as well; in fact, the majority come from outside.

Is there any predominance of any particular diseases among the native patients that come in? - I have not prepared any statement on that, but I can say that they are very varied. There were all sorts of things which we got.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Do you take in maternity cases? - No, we only take in maternity cases where there is anything abnormal about them. Only just recently there were two

abnormal cases which were taken in. We had two in succession, but otherwise we do not take such cases in.

MR. LUCAS: You are prepared to take maternity cases ?- Well, not unless they are abnormal cases.

DR. ROBERTS: And normal cases, where do they go ?- We do not take them.

Do they go to the clinic ?- No, they stay where they are. (Mr. McLees): They get advice at the clinic.

And medicine ?- Yes, at the clinic too.

It is mainly I understand dangerous accidents, mostly accidents on farms and so on, which you deal with ?- (Mr. Walters): Well, we get more cases than that; I could not say whether they are cases of accidents on farms which we have. We have had some bad cases from outside, or cases that have been neglected, and which have had to be dealt with here. But we had several cases of pneumonia and so on. If you wish to, I could give you precise details.

And then they come from the farms, do they ?- Yes. All acute cases. They also come from the location and from the town itself.

Is this a bad district for pneumonia ?- No, at certain times of the year we have cases. (DR. LEVITT): It is no worse than anywhere else.

MAJOR ANDERSON: You have not got separate figures of for the cases ~~that~~ natives that come in ?- (Mr. Walters): No, it would be more expensive to try and run it separately.

Do not the employers pay the charges for their natives ?- We have had four cases that have been paid for. One was a full-paying case, one was half-paid for by the employer, and the others were paid for by the Municipality.

We charged them 5/- per day.

Do you regard that as a paying thing ?- No, we do not regard it as that, but that is what we charge for the town as well.

MR. LUCAS: You only get 2/6d. from the Province ?- Yes, but at the 5/- we get another ~~15%~~ 50%.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Are not the employers liable for the costs of their native servants who are sent to hospital ?- No, I do not think they are. I do not think they are legally responsible unless they recruit the natives.

THE CHAIRMAN: In case of accidents of course they are ?- Yes, in case of accidents they are.

I presume that you get quite a number of cases of natives who are employed in towns ?- No, we have very few actually from those in town.

But you have had more than four - more than the four who paid ?- Yes.

Have you any idea how many it would run to - that is, how many of the town natives in your hospital; would it run to more than forty ?- No, it would not run to more than five or six.

DR. ROBERTS: With regard to this sum of money which you received from the Native Affairs Department - this amount of money from the native development fund which the Town Clerk wants to collar, the whole of it was given I think on the understanding that you endeavoured to train orderlies or nurses ?- I got £100 from the Native Affairs Department and £25 from the deferred pay.

That £100 is the native development fund ?- Well, they did not tell us that.

Was not there an understanding asked for in regard to that £100 ?- I would have to look up the correspondence. We

are not at training centre. The Medical Council kept us down and would not allow our girls to count their training here, although when they go up they pass with honours. But they did not want to give these girls the facilities to which they are entitled.

Now you are referring to white nurses ?- Yes. So I do not think they would not be so lenient as to stretch a point.

The two boys which you have as orderlies, are they natives ?- Yes.

But you have no native nurses ?- We have no female native nurses. You could not call these boys nurses, they are orderlies.

MR. LUCAS: You gave us an amount of 16/8d. as the cost per day - was that for all patients? How do you account for that ? You have had very few Europeans ?- That is for all patients.

Is it because of the short time that you have been running and your heavy initial expense, that that is your charge or your cost ?- No, the initial expenses are not included in the cost of running.

But 16/8d. is rather high ?- Our costs are rather high.

THE CHAIRMAN: Can you account for that ?- It is very difficult to account for it. One reason which we assigned to that is that the Board has always advocated the policy that the efficiency of the hospital should be absolutely "it". We do not stint. We are economical in every respect but our hospital is run very well.

It is the better service which accounts for it you think ?- That is so for one thing, and another thing is this - our building was not originally constructed for a hospital building and that makes the running a bit difficult.

MR. MOSTERT: How do you make up the deficit of your hospital ?- Well, we manage to get through; we scrape through.

We do not know what is going to happen this year, but I can tell you that so far as we have managed somehow to scrape through.

THE CHAIRMAN: Of course, you will realise that you cannot scrape without a scraper ?- No, that is so.

Now, can you tell us where the money comes from ? Where has it accrued from ?- I can say that we got very good assistance from the Ladies' Committee.

DR. ROBERTS: Yes, you got over £400 from them ?- That was for the building of course, and not for the running of the hospital; but they continue to help us.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Could not you get separate accounts in regard to your native costs per day ?- It would be very difficult.

But the natives do not get the same facilities as the Europeans do ?- Well, I do not know about that. There is nothing they do not get. We do not stint them in any way. For instance, the mattresses which are put on their beds are exactly the same as the ones which we use for the Europeans in the hospital.

And what about the food ?- The food is cooked on the same stove as that of the Europeans, and if a native is ill he has to get what is necessary for him.

Does he get the same as other patients ?- Yes, whatever is required is provided for him, just the same as for any other patients.

You say that the Ladies' Committee helps you a lot ?- Yes, we are most grateful to them. They are always helping us. They gave us £422 in connection with the building of the hospital and they are always helping us in various ways.

(Mr. McLees): We would not be able to get on without them.

(DR. LEVITT): What I am prepared to talk about is put down in a report of which you have a copy. This is the report originally drafted for the Town Clerk. I will read it to you.

With reference to the forthcoming visit of the Commission investigating the Social, Economic and Industrial conditions of the natives in the Union of South Africa, I have endeavoured to review the social and economic aspects of the situation, in so far as it affects the public and also the general welfare of the native population and have great pleasure in submitting the following views.

PUBLIC HEALTH ASPECT: As the native population within urban areas is practically always increasing, it would seem imperative that more attention be given to matters of public health, sanitation and housing within such areas. These problems can only be tackled successfully, provided that ways and means are found by **LOCAL AUTHORITIES**. I would recommend the following ideas as stepping-stones for effecting the desired improvements:-

(i) Wholehearted Co-operation: From experience gained, while working for native welfare in this town, it has been found that with genuine co-operation with the natives, thereby enlisting their implicit faith, much could be done to improve the general environment of native villages or locations. The majority of natives are eager to learn and willing to co-operate in matters of importance, particularly those appertaining to their welfare.

MEDICAL ATTENDANCE OF NATIVES EMPLOYED IN TOWN: Specific provision should be made in the Masters and Servants Act, with regard to providing medical treatment to native employees falling sick whilst actually in employment. There is, I believe, provision made in the Cape Act with regard to this matter up to a certain period of the employee's sickness. It is understood that a consolidating Masters and Servants Act is now being drafted by the Department of Justice and the time seems very appropriate for making provision in this respect, providing, of course, the

MORE FREQUENT EXAMINATION OF NATIVE MALE EMPLOYEES

The existing practice of medically examining native males only on entering any employment is not sufficient guarantee to any employer of labour that his employee after one month's service is still free of any communicable or infectious disease. I am of opinion that examinations of native males should also be carried out at least once a month and then a certificate should be furnished certifying the condition of the native examined.

VENEREAL DISEASE: As already stated, Venereal Disease amongst the native population is assuming serious proportions. Unless a venereal complaint is discovered by the District Surgeon during the routine examination of native employees at the Pass Office, the infected native generally hides his condition until forced by the severity of ~~his~~ his symptoms to seek the aid of an European doctor. I specially mention European before, as a rule, a native doctor is invariably consulted first. It is now legislated that every discovered case of venereal disease is compelled to have treatment by the D.S. unless he wishes to have the services of a private practitioner and can afford to pay the expenses entailed.

Natives treated by the District Surgeon receive, as a rule, five injections and have to return after six months for a second course. As the first course of treatment usually entirely removes all signs and symptoms of the disease, the patient invariably fails to return for a second course. As three courses of injections very often fail to produce a complete cure, it will be readily understood what the state of conditions really are.

EXAMINATION OF HAWKERS AND EMPLOYEES IN DAIRIES, BUTCHERIES AND LAUNDRIES BY THE M.O.H: For some time past it has been felt that provision should be made in the Municipal Bye-laws making it compulsory for employers of native labour in dairies, butcheries, bakeries and public laundries to submit their employees for medical examination by the M.O.H. at least once a month, the same to apply to hawkers.

After several reports on the subject, we have received intimation from the Union Health Department to the effect that although there is no legislation passed for the universal enforcement of examination of employees in urban areas in the above branches, yet any local authority feeling the necessity of having such examinations performed, can enforce same by having a bye-law drafted to that effect.

Here again it would obviate a great deal of unnecessary worry if all labourers, irrespective of the type of work upon which they are engaged, were compelled to undergo a routine medical examination every month.

WAGES AND FEEDING OF NATIVES: The average wage earned by natives is from 10/- per month for piccanins to about £3 for adults. This usually includes food, which consists of mealie meal. In the case of houseboys, these are generally fed from the kitchen. It would be impossible to give a definite opinion as to whether natives are receiving adequate salaries, as one can only judge each individual case on its merits. A salary of £2 per month for a native boy who has a wife and six children to feed and clothe, as well as having to pay monthly rent, sanitary fees and general tax would appear to be hopelessly inadequate; whereas 10/- per month for a piccanin, who pays no rates and is exempted from tax and receives his food, would be ample.

5.

Concerning the feeding of natives employed in numbers by contractors and public bodies, it is felt that much could be done in this respect to improve conditions. The food supplied to natives in some instances consists of second-grade mealie meal - often weevil contaminated - and some salt. In certain instances a monetary allowance is made for the purchase of meat. The nutritive value of this diet is very low and results in a low standard of efficiency - often accompanied by other disorders among the employees.

In order to combat this evil it is recommended that a more balance diet, as well as a better grade of mealie meal should be issued. This will result in employers obtaining a maximum efficiency from their workmen at very little extra cost. A diet practically the same as issued to hard labour prisoners in South African gaols is appended, and whole-heartedly recommended.

The following physiologically sound and balanced diet is recommended: (this ration is per native per day):

- 1½ lbs. mealie meal No.1.
- 10 ozs. crushed mealies (white)
- 1 lbz. of fat (lard or beef fat).
- 1 oz. of salt.
- ½ lb. vegetables.
- 1 lb. dried beans three times a week in lieu of 10 ozs. of crushed mealie meal.
- 1 lb. meat made into coup with lb. vegetables given twice a week

or

- 24 ozs. mealie meal No.1.
- 6 ozs. bread.
- 3 ozs. beans or peas.
- 2 ozs. peanuts or ½ oz. animal or vegetable fat.
- 1 lbz. salt.
- Dressed meat with not more than 25% bone or alternative:
- Fish 3 lbs. per week.

THE LAY-OUT OF LOCATIONS OR NATIVE VILLAGES IN URBAN AREAS: This question should receive careful forethought and planning, even if the size of the village or location be small. In every instance plans and specifications describing the layout and other relevant factors should be submitted to the Native Affairs Department for approval. This step, it is claimed, would obviate any likelihood of locations or native villages lacking in all the essential aspects of a fit and proper locality for natives. A site plan, shewing the essential features and requirements of a location is appended.

With regard to situation and layout of a location or native village, the following is recommended:-

- (1) Situation: A location or native village should be within easy reach of a town, and should not be less than a mile or more than 2 miles distant from such towns.
- (2) Site: The site should be open, well drained and the soil porous.
- (3) Lay-out: A provision to be made for residential stands. These to be in squares of 20. Each stand to measure half an acre in extent. Type of dwelling to be standardised and let at moderate rentals.

B: Communal latrines to be abolished. A family latrine of a standard type, approved of by the local authority, to be built on each stand.

C: Streets to be not less than 40 feet wide.

D: Sanitary lanes to be from 15 to 20 ft. wide.

E: Communal refuse collection bins to be provided in sanitary lanes at convenient centres.

F: Communal stock kraals to be provided on outskirts of locations or villages. Keeping of animals on

7. residential stands not to be allowed.

G: Communal shower baths to be provided.

H: Provision made for communal laundry tubs.

I: Provision made for sports ground.

J: Sites granted to recognised or religious bodies for the erection of schools and churches.

K: A pure and sufficient supply of domestic water to be maintained.

L: A regular sanitary service instituted which includes refuse and night soil removal.

M: Provision of suitable trading stands for carrying on trade in the location.

N: The establishment of a labour bureau where natives of both sexes can register when looking for employment.

DR. ROBERTS: I want to say that this report is one after my own heart. It is a most excellent report and full of valuable information and kindly thought. That is what we want. Of course, you are aware of the extreme opposition that you would meet with on the part of all the natives with regard to this medical examination ?- Yes.

There is no question on which they have a stronger feeling; I think you will admit that ?- Yes.

So that while perhaps it is a necessary thing one should embark upon it with very great care; you will agree to that ?- Yes.

Then of course you are also aware I am sure of the strong opposition to this on the part of the leading Europeans, such as for instance the late Chief Justice of South Africa; in fact the two late Chief Justices ?- No, I was not aware of that.

And of course I am quite sure you will also see that you are differentiating in a marked degree between the native and the European.² You would not apply the same law to the ~~the~~ Europeans, would you? - Yes, I would. Why not?

You are aware of the difficulties? - I can make suggestions in regard to over-coming the difficulty, - With regard to the difficulty of the opposition from the native families' point of view.

Take the male. He has strong objection? - As far as I know, the family also have a very definite objection to being examined. Now the point to consider here is that the natives do not realise the importance of this examination. But if it can be explained to them in a nice way and if it can be shown why it is absolutely necessary, why it is for their own good, many natives who have great objections might not press those objections. There are many natives who have venereal disease, syphilis and so on, and who spread that condition. If you could make all the natives, male and female, all the natives resident in your area realise what syphilis is, if you could tell them what syphilis is, show them the ravages which it causes, instruct them in everything in the same way as the Europeans have had it explained to them, if you could make them know what it means in the same way as the Europeans are supposed to know about it, then I think these objections would disappear. If you can get people to have a knowledge of the disease, if you could give lectures at the location, and if you could show special films, instruct them what ~~dis-~~ venereal disease really is and what a terrible scourge it is to mankind generally, and show them how they can deal with it, and how it can be discovered even if they do not know themselves that they have it -- then I think the objections will disappear.

I think if the natives themselves are shown what the exact extent of the disease is they will readily agree to the examination, even of their women.

I agree with you entirely. I quite see that you propose this to avoid the danger not only to the native but to the European children whom these native servants are nursing. If you were to press this and say that for the native's own sake it is necessary that they should be examined, then I could understand it, but what is being proposed is that this woman should be examined because she is a danger to the European house and to the European community into which she is going. But I must say that I have never heard the view pressed in the way you have done?— Well, the other view is the only one which most of the Europeans would understand. You see there is another point too ~~what~~ why the native family objects to an examination. The native woman thinks that she particularly has to be examined. As far as the native boy is concerned, he also is examined, but one can generally see from the state of his skin whether he has any external infection, whether his ~~ven~~ disease is external or not. But you do not diagnose the disease merely from external signs. You mostly diagnose this by looking at the throat and by looking at the throat only you can arrive at the conclusion in regard to 90 per cent of the native infected cases. No native girl will object to having her throat looked at. But my point is this, the real thing is that we have not sufficient facilities at the present moment for catching the syphilitic native. The only place where he or she can be caught and diagnosed is at the pass office. At the local clinic we have been able to catch quite a number of syphilitic cases.

MR. MOSTERT: There are a large number of natives recruited in this area and outside in the ordinary way?— Yes.

They have to pass the Medical Officer of Health ?-
Yes. I do not know who examines them on the mines but I think it is the mine doctor.

The examination takes place before they are attested or immediately after. Can you tell me the percentage which is turned down on account of syphilis ?- I could not say.

Would you be surprised to hear that it is very small ?- It depends on the examination that is done there. In my opinion I do not think that a very great many of those who actually have the disease are turned down. I myself think that the statistics which we have at present of the syphilitic infection among natives is very low while the amount of syphilis among the natives is very high. Syphilis cannot be diagnosed only by what you can see. If you could take a blood smear of all the natives you would be surprised at the number that would react to this test.

Would you say 50 per cent ?- No, more than 50 per cent.

Well, what is your idea; what would you say ?- I would say it is nearer sixty than fifty.

Would you be surprised if I told you that hardly a boy is turned down on account of it ?- No, I would not be surprised, for this reason. It would not affect their capability for work. As a matter of fact, a lot of them are not in the infectious stage. Then there are also a very great many who are passed as cured, ~~xxx~~ though they are not cured at all.

If that be the case, and there were, as you say, between fifty to sixty per cent of syphilitic cases going to the mines, and if those cases should be turned down, it would mean that the mines would not have their labour force and would not be able to go on?- Let me make that clear. You might find a perfectly strong and healthy native there passing

a thorough medical examination and yet if you were to examine that native's blood he would in all probability give a positive syphillitic reaction. Yet that same native might appear to be quite strong and healthy.

It is on your suggestion about the examination that I am going now. You would have very, very few natives or native women being employed by anyone? - Well, I do not say that every syphillitic labourer is not fit to work. Where a native does not infect those that he comes in contact with I would not say that he would not be fit for work. There are natives who may give a positive reaction when their blood is tested and yet they may be quite well, or appear to be quite well.

Would it be possible to give a certificate that although a person has syphilis he or she is still fit to go into employment? - If you can diagnose a case to be suffering from syphilis by an examination, that case is liable to transmit the disease. From what you can see, he may have infected tonsils, and he may cause infection by drinking or eating out of the same utensil as others do.

But that would be only in acute cases? - The acute cases would be caught and they would have to undergo treatment. If that treatment might be only so, so that they could not spread infection

DR. ROBERTS: Would not it be a fact that if you examined the Europeans in town that you would find that half of them had tubercular bacteria in their blood? - Oh, no; not half of them! But at the same time we would be surprised at the large percentage.

I put it at 50 per cent? - No. There are many who are quite well and who would yet give positively tubercular reaction.

Well, would not you put them in hospital or treat them? -
No.

MR. LUCAS: You speak about co-operation with the natives; have you had any experience in enlisting that? - Yes.

Have you been successful? Have the natives responded to requests for co-operation? - Yes, I find that the natives are very keen. If they feel that ~~ix~~ you honestly mean and are sincere in trying to do something for their good, they will always help you, and they will always be very willing to learn. They will certainly not put any obstacles in your way.

Have you been able to take any measures here which have improved the capacity of the natives for work? Say the labour force in the town? - When the idea of the clinic was mooted, it was felt by a lot of people that it would not prove a success, and with that idea in our minds we went ~~a~~ to the location one day, after notifying the inhabitants of the location that we were going to talk to them on matters of their own welfare, and we were surprised at the large number that turned out. We had over 100 coming out on the first day to hear what we had to say. And they were very pleased, and grateful for everything we had to say. They felt that we were sincere in what we were after. I had worked with them before, and I never told them anything that I did not mean, and the result was that we were gradually able to show the natives that by going out to the locations we were trying to do something to help them; we were trying to do them some good. And the same thing applied to the clinic. Well, when we went out that time we got all the native piccanins and we told them that we wanted the place to look clean, and that they must pick up all the bits of paper, and the tins, and the rubbish, and they all did it in one day. They were really very keen to help us.

The health of the location, is that good? - No, it is not good.

What do you attribute that to ?- It attribute it to this. Men, women and children are not very sound. There is a great deal of syphilis among them. Then the housing and ventilation are bad. In the winter they have not got sufficient covering. They have not sufficient money or they do not know how to spend the money they have in buying food. And all that brings about a great deal of ill-health. They have bad food, and if they do not eat or sleep well they have no foundation to build upon. They have not got sufficient ventilation in their houses, and in those circumstances you cannot expect a robust type of man or woman.

Does that affect their efficiency ?- Yes, it does.

Have you found that lack of efficiency has been increasing ?- Well, my experience has not been very long there and I have only taken an active interest into it lately, but there is a marked lack of efficiency.

MR. LUCAS: Is there anything done for the natives here by private effort ?- No, there is nothing done here except by the mission stations.

THE CHAIRMAN: And the hospital ?- Well, we have only just opened that native hospital.

MR. LUCAS: What I meant was whether there were any workers in the place to supply you privately in the way of supplying milk, or drugs, or anything like that ?- As a matter of fact, the drugs supplied at the location, at our clinic, are supplied by a private individual, by our local chemist, Mr. McLees, who gives all the drugs free for all cases for which I have prescribed. And then the Council also contributes a small amount. There are certain people in town who have told me that if there are any sick children who require special food like milk I can always approach them and they will be willing to provide it.

So that something is being done in that way which the natives would be able to do for themselves if they were economically well off ?- So far as food is concerned, yes.

Is there any provision for training nurses locally ?- No, there is not.

And is there any provision in the location for aged natives ?- No.

You have been here seven years ?- Yes.

Have you come across any cases of aged natives who cannot provide for their own living ?- Well, they go about the town and beg.

Have you noticed any increase in them ?- Not in Middelburg, there are not many of them here.

Now, let us talk about your suggestion about the layout of locations or native villages. Have you in mind villages in which they would have freehold title or long leases ?- No, I was merely thinking of any municipality laying out a location.

I see. You see the two terms "location" and "native villages". Do you draw any distinction in your own mind between the two ?- No, I do not; ~~xxx~~ I was merely thinking really of the size of locations.

One point was raised here which we have to deal with, and that is the question of native villages in which natives will have security of title. Have you given any thought to that ?- Yes, I have.

Can you tell us anything about that ?- It is a very difficult question. The position with a location of that description is this. It all depends whether the location is near the town and whether that town is going to increase in size. If you have a location, say within a mile radius of a town, and you give the natives freehold of that land, that land becomes theirs. Well, your town is going to spread; your

town may of necessity spread in the direction of the native location. What is going to happen then?

I had that in mind. When you say one mile, do you mean from the centre of the town? - Yes, from the centre of the town.

We had a suggestion made to us of not less than three miles from the municipal boundary. The sort of location which you refer to might necessitate the moving of natives from the place to which they had been assigned and the demolition of their houses? - Yes. I think it should be planned in a direction of the town where there is not likely to be any expansion.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Have you given consideration to the question whether natives under present conditions are better off in the locations of out on the farms? - Well, so far as the native on the farm is concerned, his condition really depends on what kind of a master he is under. If he is under a master who gives him a good bit of ground to till and if he can get a good crop from his ground he is not too badly off. But you get natives on farms who are given ground which is no good at all. The native has to work on the farmer's land and he is given ground of which he can make no use at all. Then, generally, the native has no opportunity to far as agriculture is concerned. He keeps on ploughing the same bit of land without an idea of adding fertiliser at all, with the result that gradually that portion of the land which is provided for him is worked out and exhausted. The land which he has becomes worth nothing at all, and his crops are always diminishing in quantity and quality. On the other hand, the natives in the town are at least sure, if they have jobs, of a certain amount of money on which they can live.

But generally speaking from the point of view of natives, you would not like to see them encouraged to come into the

town ?- I think the native in his tribal state is much better off than the native anywhere else.

I also want to include native reserves ?- Well, I am afraid I do not know much about them. I can only speak of what I have heard. And it seems to me, speaking from what I have heard, that the native in his reserve is better off.

MR. LUCAS: How are the natives housed who live on their employer's premises ?- Of course the employer has to provide a room for them.

Yes, and what are these rooms like ?- Do you regulate that ?- They have to have ventilation and a certain amount of air space. That is provided for under the bye-laws.

And are those bye-laws satisfactorily observed ?- Yes, they are observed satisfactorily. They come up to our requirements and where necessary we enforce them.

From your point of view, are the natives in such circumstances reasonably satisfactorily housed ?- Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now you told us that blood examination would probably reveal nearer sixty per cent than fifty per cent of syphillitics among the native population ?- Yes.

Are you referring to the urban population ?- I am only talking of my knowledge of natives in the town.

You have natives coming in from the rural areas ?- Yes.

My normal job is to suspect figures. Have you yourself done blood examinations ?- No, I have not.

So you cannot really speak with any certainty ?- I did not say I could. I have not done these examinations myself.

But if you have not done these blood examinations --- ?- What I meant to convey was that we sent them away to Johannesburg.

I mean this, have you got any blood examinations on which you are going ?- As you say, one can always be

caught on figures, but one can make a fairly accurate guess. I have had natives who have appeared quite normal, but for my own satisfaction I have taken a sample of their blood and have sent it to the Institute and I have received a report that they are positive.

How many cases in all would you have dealt with - how many blood tests have you had made in the last seven years? - Of natives - actually we do not send away a lot of blood for native examination, but as I say, it has become a habit to estimate.

How many have you sent away? - Not more than five.

That is rather a slender sample? - Yes, that is quite true.

So that your fifty or sixty per cent is not based on examination? - It is based on a sound estimate.

Your fifty may perhaps be thirty? - No, I do not think so. I know many of the natives in the location, in fact I know most of the families personally.

Let us take a different basis. Could you give an estimate of the number of natives whom you actually know from a health point of view? - Yes.

Now whom you have examined for syphilis or anything else, but whom you have treated one way and another, with whom you have come into sufficiently close contact to enable you to judge of their health conditions. How many natives, healthy or ill, suffering from any disease, have you seen? - During the last seven years? At the clinic alone? I can only guess. At the clinic I have seen 297 natives from the 18th of October last to June last. Those were native women and children. Now the native women sometimes bring their children along. They do not complain of anything, but when we examine them we discover syphilis in them. Now, where did that child get it? It means that the native woman has got it, and the husband has got it, and all the members of that household have got it.

You are trying to prove something I am not asking for. I want to test the validity of your figures. You say that you have seen about 300 at the clinic and you must have seen quite a number in your private practice ?- Yes, double that number.

Say you have seen 600 in your private practice ?- Yes. Now say we multiply that by seven. Would you have seen 600 different ones every year ?- No, say about 500 every year.

They could hardly have been 500 different ones ?- No.

How many natives live in Middelburg town ?- Altogether about 2,000.

Could we add 2,000 that you may have seen from the district ?- No, not as many as that, say 500.

That makes 2,500. In the population of Middelburg District that is still a small number ?- Yes.

That is only the total which you have dealt with medically - it is still a small sample ?- Certainly.

Well, now, I want to know whether you have seen enough natives to make your estimate such that one can go on it ?- I take the majority of the natives and treat them.

Your estimate comes to this then, that there is a large number of ~~syphilitic~~ syphilitic natives in the district ?- Yes.

And that is the utmost validity your estimate has ?-Yes.

DR. ROBERTS: On the same reasoning half the people of Pretoria have tuberculosis ?- I cannot argue about that.

You are prepared to acknowledge that if you took a blood smear you would find that nearly 50 per cent would have tuberculosis ?- No. I am prepared to say this, that a larger number than one would expect have tuberculosis. I am only speaking from my own experience. I treat the

majority of the natives in this town, and I know that the majority of them have Syphilis and have had it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Will you put it this way, that the majority of the natives whom you have medically attended have syphilis - have been suffering from syphilis.

That is a much more valuable statement than your estimate ?- I do not know.

If you can give us your own experience, your own personal experience, then surely it is much more valuable than simply giving us a rough guess ?- I can only tell you about the town, and I have given you an estimate which I regard as representing the true position.

But you really gave not got any definite basis to come to that conclusion on ?- I am speaking from my personal experience and from the experience which I have gathered in the course of my treatment of the natives here.

Still you have no definite basis ?- Yes, I think so.

THE COMMISSION ADJOURNED AT 4.45 p.m.,
UNTIL 9.30 a.m., ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 23rd,
1930.
