

Native Witnesses:

Roman Catholic Church.-- They do not mind where they put a school, they do not mind if they put it quite near to some older school in this district. There is a school which had been in existence for over thirty years in this district. A few years ago the Trappists came along and put up a new school, and the result is that, today, the old school is in danger of having to be closed. These are things which have to be taken into consideration, because today we find that it is warfare between the missionaries and the Native people among themselves.

MR. MOSTERT: You find that there is over-competition?-- Yes.

DR. ROBERTS: How would you deal with it. What will you do if they put up schools without getting the grants?-- That is where the danger arises. Even if they do not get the grants, the Catholics are strong enough financially to pay the teachers themselves. It is a very rich church.

MR. LUCAS: How do they succeed as against the others?-- They are rich and, moreover, they are people with wonderful influence.

Well, how would you deal with that; you are complaining about it, how would you remedy it?-- We cannot remedy it until we get help from the Government to put a stop to it.

What sort of steps should the Government take?-- They should legislate on similar lines to what has been recently done and no church should be allowed to be put up within three miles from another one. You should not have the one immediately next door to the other, as is going on now.

That is really the rule now, but that is only in respect of grants for schools?-- Private schools should not be allowed at all. There should be no private schools nearer to the older ones than three miles. It should be made

Native Witnesses:

a crime. (Mr. Mlandu): May I just be allowed to give an explanation under that heading. Some time ago, I think about two sessions ago, the general council passed a resolution in connection with this subject, and the resolution was forwarded to the Government. The Government, in their reply, made us understand that the authorities were making an arrangement in order to have a law passed and brought into operation, checking the continuous establishment of all private schools in the territories. I do not know exactly what has transpired and perhaps Dr. Roberts might be able to explain to us. The Government has already promised to us that they would take steps under that heading, but what has actually been done I do not know.

DR. ROBERTS: Long ago, men went down to the towns just as they do now. You know that that is so?

(Mr. Leqela): Yes, that is so.

They were the old vagrants, as they were called. Now, why did they go in those days? - There are several reasons and several causes. One of those causes is this. A man wishes to work in town, where he thinks he will get more wages than anywhere else. He goes to town and he earns a wage which may be anything and the temptation creeps in to have money in one's pocket, night and day. That is a big temptation in the towns, whereas in rural areas Natives do not worry very much about having pocket money at all - the Native does not worry whether he has money, no matter where he goes, to a beer drink or anywhere else. They do not care about carrying money with them. But once they go to town there is that temptation. So that, when a Native has been living in town for any length of time, that temptation gets more and more into his blood and into his nerves and the result is that he does not want to go back to the

Native Witnesses:

location. Although he may go back to his districts in the Native reserve, in most instances he does not stay for any length of time because, when the money which he has saved in the town and brought back with him is finished, he feels that he wants more money in his pocket, and the result is that he goes back again to the town. He goes off and he may come back again for a little while, and then he goes back to the town again and eventually stays away altogether.

There is another temptation, and that is the white man's mode of living. In the locations, in our homes in the locations, we sit down to have our meals. We sit right down on the ground. Generally speaking, we have meat or porridge or anything else sitting down in that way. But that is not so in the towns.

When one goes to the towns, the first thing is that the Native wants better clothing, just the contrary to what is the position in the Native location and in the reserves. In the locations he does not care what he wears, he does not worry about his clothing. But when he is in the towns he sees how the white people are dressed, he sees how the European ladies are dressed and he wants to immitate them, he is tempted, he finds that the Native mode of living in the reserves will not suit him any longer. He wants better clothes. When he has had a longer time in town, he is more and more tempted, he is more easily tempted, and eventually he finds that he has to sacrifice everything that he has left behind him in his location and he has to give up all his tribal conditions and he has to live in town.

If he has cattle in the location, he will sell it. All his livestock is disposed of with a view to getting some money and with the proceeds of the sale of his livestock, he is tempted to buy ground in town, because he wants to live in town. If he has to go on renting a house in town, it is more expensive for him and the best way for him is to make

Native Witnesses:

some more money so that he can buy some ground in town and in that way become a landed proprietor and have a house of his own. Then he does not go back to his reserve and, if he does go back, he does not stay very long.

Now you say that you would not allow that man to go back again because that man is working in town, or has been working in town. Supposing that man can no longer be in town and wants to come back? Where has he to go if you do not allow him? The man has gone to the town 30 or 40 years ago and now he wants to come back. You say you will not allow him to come back?— No, I was not referring to those people, I was referring in my statement to people from outside the Union.

You made a statement that Natives have more faith in Native doctors than in European doctors. Excuse me asking you this, but do you really think that that is the case?— Yes, I still maintain that that is so, because, in many instances, you will find that the relatives of a sick person requiring medical attention, i.e. qualified attention, will only go to a doctor, to an European doctor at the very last, when perhaps the patient's life is in a critical condition. If you enquire why that is you will find that that man, or that man's relatives, were going about consulting a Native doctor here and there, going from one Native doctor and so on, all round the country. In the course of time the patient is advised by a friend to go and see an European doctor. He is forced to do so and it is only at the very last that he actually does so.

Yes, I understand that. Would you say that the mortality among the Natives today is greater than it was in the past, in the days of your father?— Oh yes, I say so. (Rev. Makaluza): I was thinking of something in that line of argument. Dr. Roberts wanted to know why

Native Witnesses:

these men should not be allowed to go back to their own people when they have been working in the big towns. As one who has worked as an Evangelist in town for some time, I want to add this. Unmarried, as well as married women who are loafing about in town, are a danger to our young men in the town. We have lost many of our young men in the towns through those women. These women are there for immoral purposes and many of these young men come in contact with them and you will find that men who have gone to the towns leaving their wives behind them in their reserves are simply entrapped in the towns by these women, and eventually they forget their families and their homes and leave them to starve. These women are a very bad influence and the only remedy I suggest, if I may be allowed to do so, is this, that repatriation of these women should be enforced.

Would you send them back to their locations?-- Any woman like that, unless she is married and living with her husband, any woman who is found without a husband, should be repatriated to her location.

DR. ROBERTS: You think that she should be sent back to her village to carry on her business there?-- I say that she should be taken back to her own village for the good of these young men in the towns. That, to my mind, is most essential and will do a lot of good.

Mr. Jack Herbert Keightley (Trader)
Mr. Ernest Walter Nelson "

called and examined:

CHAIRMAN: I understand that both of you have interests in trading stores in this district?-- (Mr. Keightley) /I only have interests locally and not in the district. (Mr. Nelson): I have a number of stores in the district as well.

You carry on a good deal of trade here with the Natives here, I believe? - (Mr. Keightley): Yes, I do.

One point which has been referred to us is the matter of Native trading and the question of licenses being granted to Natives to trade. We should like to have your views on this subject? - Speaking from a personal point of view, I personally see no objection whatever to Natives being granted licenses, provided there is a limitation of licenses. The position today, so far as this district is concerned, is that it is very much over-traded; the village is over-traded and, unless there is some limitation in respect of the number of licenses granted, I am afraid it is going to reflect and react to the detriment of the Natives. I do not see that there should be any reason for putting anything in the nature of a colour bar on licenses. If a man, everything being equal, has the necessary finance to start business and has the ability, I do not see why he should be stopped in his own territories.

Have there been Natives who have traded in these areas that you know of? - (Mr. Nelson): I know of one. He traded for about six months and then he went under.

Did he trade as a general dealer? - Yes.

Do the Natives do any hawking? - ~~Yes~~ Yes, they hawk extensively in their own province.

Not in the way of trade? - No.

Why do you think that this man went under? - Well he had insufficient capital, and at the same time he did not have sufficient understanding of ordinary business methods. That is the principal reason why he could not last.

Are they apt to give too much credit, these Native storekeepers? - There is undoubtedly a lot of credit being given. That is so.

Is that on account of competition? - Yes, I

Messrs. Keightley & Nelson

suppose that competition is pushing it hard. The district is very much over-traded and you find that traders in very many instances have to resort to giving credit to get rid of their goods, and then they have to chance getting their money in in the end. That is a thing which applies to European traders as well.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Are new licenses being continually given, or is there any control, is there any restriction? - I cannot say that there is anything in the way of restriction. In the village, for instance, there is no control except that the premises in which a person wishes to do business have to conform to certain requirements; they have to be suitable and they have to conform to the regulations which are laid down. But further, if the applicant has nothing against them, there is nothing to stop him from getting a license. In the district, the position is somewhat different, because there, I understand, that the District Council is more or less controlling the district and can grant a license if they consider it to be suitable and beneficial for the Natives living in that area. That only applies to the district.

Have many new licenses been granted in the district? - No, the result of the position is that in the last eight or ten years, no new license at all has been granted in this district. So far as I can remember the last one which was granted in the district was about 8 years ago. The control seems to have acted very well.

CHAIRMAN: Have there been any changes in the articles of Native trading, say in the last 10 years or so? - Yes, the changes have been very great. Native fashions change year by year in the same way as European fashions change. We have had that experience.

Can you mention any specific cases? - Yes, their

Messrs. Keightley & Nelson

clothing. It is exactly similar to the Europeans. And you find the same thing with their rugs as well. For instance, one year they will prefer a particular kind of rug, but the next year, they will want a different one altogether.

Do you mean different in the way of colour? - Yes, colour, design and everything. For instance, the Austrian rugs. Then you get your 50% French cotton rugs and other kinds of rugs. You have two or three different English rugs coming out, all of them of very good quality. They change from year to year. One year they will have one quality and one kind of rug and the next year a different one. The same with the clothing. They follow the European styles. As the European changes, so do the Natives follow suit themselves. It might be that they will be three or six months after the Europeans, but they will follow.

But has there been a change with some of the articles of commerce which they used to buy and which they do not buy now. Have some of these articles of commerce gone out altogether? - I cannot say that. Some articles must have gone out, but I cannot call to mind what articles have actually gone out of trade altogether.

Take beads, for instance? - No, beads are still used, though perhaps not as extensively as they used to be. But they are very largely in demand even today.

Has there been a change in the quality of prints? - I cannot say that, they are more or less the same. (Mr. Keightley): We traders always carry various qualities of prints. One man will want one quality and another one a different one. You will find one woman comes in for one thing and another for something else.

Is there a change in the article that is in demand? - Not a very material change. There is a change

Messrs. Keightley & Nelson

of this kind. My experience is that a Native has gradually been emulating the European standard of living. So much so that his demands are increasing. That applies to groceries, for instance. I think I can safely say that there are only one or two tribes in this district who do not buy sugar, tea and coffee and such things, and I think that that applies principally to the Pondomisse. But, otherwise, I think you will find that the Native is gradually emulating the European standard of living. Of course, I attribute that principally to education.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: The blanket as a part of clothing, as an article of clothing, is that going out of fashion rapidly?- I do not think it is, although we have certain tribes here, taking the Pondomisse, for instance, who wear cotton sheets. Then the womenfolk wear a sort of skin loincloth, with a rug over it.

You say that there is great progress and that they emulate the Europeans. If that is so, then they must be doing away with the blanket as a dress?- The extraordinary part of a Basuto is that although they dress as Europeans, they may dress in the same way as I do, and yet a Basuto is not completely dressed, unless he wears a rug over his suit. (Mr. Nelson): The Basuto man may be perfectly dressed, he may be wearing a very good pair of boots, he may be wearing an exceptionally good pair of trousers and a vest and an expensive rug. It does not matter how well educated he is, those Natives out in the districts, they will always wear their rug. That is not so in the towns. They will wear an expensive pair of trousers, expensive boots and very good clothes generally, but over it all they wear their rug. In my opinion the Basuto out in the district will never do away with the Rug.

Messrs. Keightley & Nelson

CHAIRMAN: Why not?- It is his national dress and it is the national custom to have that rug.

DR. FOURIE: Is it a tribal distinction?- I think so because it is only the Basuto who wears it, none of the other tribes do.

MAJOR ANDERSON: How far back does that date?- Well, it has been so ever since we have been in this district.

It was not always so?- Well, I do not know.

(Mr. Keightley): My experience is that the Hlubi, that, of course, is almost the Xosa, as many of you know their principal dress has been a woollen blanket, a blanket with ochre on it. Now I find that these woollen blankets are not sold nearly so extensively as they used to be and the Xosas, the Hlubis are now buying the Basuto rugs.

CHAIRMAN: With regard to agricultural implements, has any change come about in regard to the nature of the trade?- Yes, I think so, I think there is a decided change.

In what respect?- The Natives are demanding better implements. For instance, the old 75 plough, the only implement which they knew, has very largely gone out and today they want a more modern style of plough, they go in for better ploughs and for cultivators and planters. There is a decided improvement, to my mind, in the standard of implements which the Native is buying today.

They go in for double furrow ploughs now?- A few of them do.

And the use of planters, is that general?- It is fairly general; those who can afford it do so, but it is a fairly expensive item. They go in for it fairly largely. The majority of those who buy planters are those who wish to improve their methods of agriculture and cultivation, the people who want to use fertilizers and I may say that 75% of the planters which I have sold are with fertilizer

Messrs. Keightley & Nelson

attachments. That, generally speaking, is my experience.

CHAIRMAN: Did I understand, Mr. Nelson, that you disagreed with Mr. Keightley about the general use of planters? Yes, I do not quite agree with my friend. The percentage of planters that have come in is not, to my mind as great as my friend would lead you to believe. ~~It~~ ~~xxx~~ The planters, I may say, have only been started to be sold in the last two or three years, and if you were to go through the whole of the district, I do not think that you would see more than one percent of the people using them, that is taking the whole of the population here.

Do you agree with that, Mr. Keightley? (Mr. Keightley): Well, my remark was really proportionately to what they used to purchase. (Mr. Nelson): I agree that they are coming in and the demand will grow to such an extent that probably very soon 50% of the land owners will own planters. But at the present moment they do not do so here.

Now, in regard to fertilizer, can you tell us to what extent the Native people here use fertilizer? (Mr. Keightley): To a very small extent, I should say. (Mr. Nelson): We only started this year for the very first time to try and induce land owners to fertilize their lands. I may say that this year we have imported a good bit of fertilizer, and in the lower areas of this district, where the ground is not so very fertile, I understand that they have been sold extensively. So far as I hear, over 600 bags of fertilizer have been sold to one location.

MAJOR ANDERSON: What kind of fertilizer are they? They are superphosphates. Now, as regards the other section, the Northern and the Western section where they get better crops, there we have sold very little so far, and I may say that it is really only a matter of experiment so far as we have gone.

Messrs. Keightley & Nelson

CHAIRMAN: Do the Natives buy seed from the stores?- Yes, they buy a lot of it. A lot of the seed comes from the Free State and the Transvaal, and the majority of the Natives prefer to plant that rather than their own seed. (Mr. Keightley): In this regard I may say that the Natives prefer the white mealie and my experience is that for planting they really want the red. They say that it matures more easily. You see, you get frosts here, and of course it is essential that they should mature before the frost comes.

MR. MOSTERT: You know, of course, that you can get a good white mealie?- I daresay, but it is difficult to get them to believe it. They know themselves that this common red grain will mature fairly soon and they will plant it, although the majority of them prefer to have a white grain. We try to induce them to do the right thing for their own good.

MR. LUCAS: You said just now that there was a great deal of credit given in this district. On what conditions is credit usually given?- (Mr. Nelson): I do not know what my brother traders do in this respect, but I myself am trading here and in the district and my principle is this:- When a man comes to me for credit I say "allright, you shear your sheep and bring the wool along to me or otherwise take it elsewhere and settle your account". That means that they have a six-monthly account. Ten percent of these people recognise this agreement, but the balance I have to chase for a few years for their money.

Have you lost a great deal of money through giving credit?- No, I have not. I have lost only a very little money through it. In the 15 years I have been trading here I have lost probably a matter of £10, that is all, and I may say that

Messrs. Keightley & Nelson.

in my opinion, giving credit to the Native here in the territory is a far better investment than giving credit to Europeans. I would sooner, any day, give a Native credit, trust the Native with £10 worth of credit, than an European. You can go for 30 years, but in the end you will get your money. But so far as the European is concerned, he will go 30 days and you will not get it.

Do you agree with that Mr. Keightley?— (Mr. Keightley): I should say that the Native is slow but sure. If you have to press the Native he will say "I am not disputing your account, but you must be satisfied to wait". You will get your money in the end, and even if the father dies the children, in the end, will come and pay it.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: We have been told elsewhere that the strict honesty among the Native is slowly ^{dy} ~~sting~~ing out?— I cannot say that I have found that here. A Native will pay, no matter if you have to ^{wait} ~~pay~~ ten years for it, in the long run they come along and pay it.

CHAIRMAN: Is any interest charged on these long overdue accounts?— So far as my business is concerned, I do not charge any interest whatever.

Do the Natives recognise the idea of interest?— Oh, yes, they understand it quite well and a good few of them are quite prepared to pay it too. Some of them come along to pay their accounts and want to pay interest. I had a case the other day of one man who came in and, after having settled his account, he said "I want to pay interest, here is 10/-". I have had that sort of thing quite frequently. (Mr. Keightley): I, on the other hand, do charge them interest. I charge them ten percent per annum. I have explained it to them and they understand it quite well. You have to get down to their level to make them understand it.

Messrs. Keightley & Nelson.

They say "How can hard money increase". Well, you have to get down to it and explain to them. You must explain to them that money represents your sheep and your cattle and that if you have a sheep and cattle they would increase. If you had the sheep shearing time would come along and you would get the wool. You have to shear your sheep and you will get the benefit from the wool and from the progeny of your cattle. But unless you explain it to them, they will not understand it.

MR. LUCAS: Do you find that the Native is ready to accept new ideas and new views if they are properly explained to him?- Yes, he is quite ready to accept them.

You have told us of a number of changes in the district in connection with agriculture. Now there are many such changes, are there not?- (Mr. Nelson): Yes, there are.

Now have you noticed any general changes in the economic conditions of the Natives. Can you say whether they are better off or whether they are poorer than they used to be?- They are not better off, I should say, and as a matter of fact the position today is very bad indeed. They have to pay very high prices for their requirements. Furthermore, their requirements are very much greater than they used to be in the days of the past. They have been educated up to a very much higher standard of living, but their income is exactly what it used to be in the past when they could come out on very much less.

Have their wages remained the same?- No, their wages have increased, but they have not increased in proportion to what they have to pay more for their requirements today.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: And their agricultural production, has that increased?- No, I do not think that their agricultural production has increased, it is poor; in

Messrs. Keightley & Nelson

fact I myself think that it has decreased.

MR. LUCAS: Now let us take the districts which you are in now, where your trading stores are. Do you have a bigger turnover today than you had 20 years ago - can you tell us roughly? - No, I do not think that our turnover is any bigger.

Is the population the same, or has there been a change in that? - Well, the population is increasing, but it is increasing very slowly. I do not know that there has been any increase in the number of the population lately. Nor do I think that there has been any increase in the trade.

Has there been a decrease in the trade? - No, with the exception of times of depression and things like that. But as soon as the depression is over you usually find that the trade goes back to what it was.

Do you find that the Natives have more produce to sell than they used to have in the past? - Yes, I think so. And they are getting more sheep and they are getting more cattle. There are a lot more cattle in this district than what there were 30 years ago.

Do they trade in cattle in this district? - Yes, they trade extensively in cattle.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Is the country getting overstocked? - I would not say that it is getting overstocked, but it is getting very near to it.

Are they improving their sheep at all? - Yes, they are, but that is only a matter of the latter years; that has only come about, I should say, in the last five or six years.

And cattle? - Yes, cattle too, but not so much so as what they have done with the sheep.

MR. LUCAS: Do they dispose of a great deal of mealies and kaffercorn? - No, they do not. In proportion I should say that they would probably sell half of what they reap.

Messrs. Keightley & Nelson

Do they sell for cash, or must they barter? - They have to barter. As a matter of fact all the storekeepers barter. They take to the value of what they bring in out of the store.

What is the reason for that, why must they barter? - Well, I do not know, I suppose it is a matter of custom very largely. As far back as I can remember it was done, and it is still carried on by all the traders. (Mr. Keightley): My idea is this, that in giving barter instead of cash for grain, this is the cause. The Native usually comes with a very much inflated idea of the cash value of his grain or whatever other product he brings in. The cash value is always fixed on the selling price. What I mean is this. They consider that you must give them as much for their grain as they can buy it for. They do not take into account that you have your overhead charges and your other expenses and naturally you cannot give them these inflated prices. And, therefore, the only way to do is this. You give them the equivalent value in goods, but then you reduce the price of these goods and reduce your profits on these goods.

Does that fill the bill as far as you are concerned, Mr. Nelson? - (Mr. Nelson): Yes, I think so.

Do you find in this district that the Natives sell one kind of grain but, when they are buying, they insist on getting another kind, - a superior kind? - Yes, very much so. The grain they are selling is a very much inferior kind, but when they are buying and you show them what they are buying, they haggle and they call it pigs food.

Now, in regard to selling cattle or sheep, when they sell cattle or sheep is that for cash, or do they barter there too? - No, when it comes to selling stock it is mostly for stock, although occasionally they will also barter there. That is also a matter of custom.

Messrs. Keightley & Nelson

And what about their wool, how do they sell that?- Wool is all for cash and very expensive at that. They get full value there.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: What type of wool do these Natives grow here?- It is a fine merino.

Is it a good wool?- No, it is not too good, I should say it is fairly good for the Transkei.

The Transkei wool has a certain reputation?- I suppose so, it is a fine wool. (Mr. Keightley): It is not inferior but superior to the rest, except that the yield is very much lower than the rest. It is a very coarse staple, what they call Transkei wool. It is a ~~xxxxxx~~ cross-bred but it gives a very big ~~xxx~~ yield. The average yield of the Transkei wool would be round about 45 to 48, whereas ours would be round about 34 percent. It is a clean scoured wool, and that accounts for the fact that a Transkei wool gets a bigger price than what we do.

MR. MOSTERT: Is not your a Wanganella sheep?- No, the climatic conditions bring about a very fine wool here. That is nature's provision on account of the climatic conditions in these areas.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: You said just now that the Natives are producing an inferior mealie?- Yes.

We heard this morning that you have had demonstrators here for ten years or so. Now has not there been any improvement as the result of the work of these demonstrators?- Take the average Native. The demonstrator comes along and said to the Native, who may be a fairly old man, you must plough in this way or that way. The demonstrator is a youngish man and the older man thinks "Well, it is a bit of impertinence on the part of this youngster to come and tell me what I have got to do". The result is that

Messrs. Keightley & Nelson

we shall not feel the benefit really of these demonstrators until the next generation. That is what we feel here about it, but still we feel that a lot of good can come from it.

DR. ROBERTS: Do you expect to derive the real benefit in the next generation?— Yes, we do expect it. As a matter of fact we have indications in this way. We find that people are going in for fencing materials, and then of course they go in for fertilizer to a much larger extent. But, while I am on this question of fertilizer, I want to say this. This question of fertilizer is a very difficult one. We cannot buy fertilizer in sufficient quantities, nor can we afford to sell fertilizer cheaper than we are doing, and we consider that it would be a service to the Natives if the District Council could arrange to carry a stock of fertilizers for a few years in order to sell it to the Native at a reasonable price. You see, the District Council can buy in bigger quantities than we could do, and they would be able to distribute it as well.

MAJOR ANDERSON: At what prices are you selling superphosphates?— We have to sell it retail. The Natives just buy to experiment with and it works out at 15/- per bag. It seems a very high price, but you must bear in mind that we have heavy transport to pay which works out at something like 1/6d for 100 lbs. weight. But that is what we feel about it, that if the District Council would undertake it, they would be rendering a real service to the Natives. That is one of the good effects of the work of the demonstrators.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Is the rainfall sufficient here for superphosphates?— That again is a very difficult thing. Sometimes it is sufficient and sometimes it is not.

What is your rainfall here?— It is between twentyone and thirty inches. I will tell you this, that a lot of these Natives who have bought planters from me with

Messrs. Keightley & Nelson

fertilizers attached, have used kraal manure. It comes out cheaper. They reckon they have it there and they do not need to buy it, and I suppose that is quite correct. Another reason is this. The Native, as you know, ploughs very badly. The average male in the kraal does not do any ploughing at all. He does the directing, and the young boy does the ploughing. The result is that the ground is just scratched and no subsoil is touched so that they only get about onequarter of the crops which they would otherwise get.

MR. MOSTERT: Do they use cultivators at all? - Yes, the more progressive ones do.

MR. LUCAS: Do you notice any influence of the progressive farmers on the Natives? - I cannot say that I do, except that I would like to add that I certainly think that, by allowing the Natives on the farms to go into the Native districts, this would eventually be very much to the benefit of the territories. I say so for this reason; as you all know, the Natives working on the farms serve, as it were, a term of apprenticeship.

You mean they learn a great deal on the farms? - Yes, they learn up-to-date methods of cultivation, they learn various things on a farm which are very useful to them and then, by coming here into the Native territories after having learned these things, they would set an example to the others, and if the results which they got were good, then I suppose it is only natural that the others would follow the example set to them.

Would the Natives, when they go back to their own areas, continue to carry out the methods which they have learned? - I do not see why they should not.

In the time that you have been in this district

Messrs. Keightley & Nelson

have you noticed any change for the better or for the worse in the attitude of the Natives towards the Europeans?-

(Mr. Nelson): I should say that the change is for the better.

Have you noticed any change in the attitude of the Natives towards the Government, any change in the trust they have in the Government? - No, I cannot say that I have noticed any change in their attitude towards the Government; except perhaps the slight disturbances such as you have in connection with this Wellington movement, for instance. Instances of that sort do occur from time to time, but then they blow over and the people revert back to their conditions and their attitude, as they were before.

You would say that the position here is quite satisfactory? - Yes, I think it is.

Now, taking the general subjects of the investigations of this Commission, is there any other point on which you can give us any information, which would assist us in coming to our conclusions? - No, I do not think there is anything I can think of.

Do you have anything to do with recruiters? - Yes, I am recruiting extensively in this district.

Whom do you recruit for? - For the Native Recruiting Corporation in Johannesburg.

Do you think that recruiting results in any Native being persuaded to go to work, either on the mines or anywhere else, who would not otherwise have gone to work, or is recruiting confined in getting for the Mines a number of labourers who would otherwise go to work somewhere else? - My experience is that, if a boy wants to go to a big town, if he wants to go to Cape Town, to Johannesburg or to Durban, he will go there whether you recruit him or not.

Do the recruiters increase the total number

Messrs. Keightley & Nelson

of people who go to work?- The function which the recruiter serves is only to see that the boy goes forward on his application to go forward. This is the position generally. The boy comes to the store and he says "I want to recruit to go to the mines". Well, we are there to see that that boy goes forward on the day when he wants to go. We have him examined and attested and he gets an advance if he wants it. We can advertise the fact that we are recruiting, and by advertising that we want Natives, a lot of boys who would never have thought of going to work, suddenly think "Well, it is a very nice thing to go to Johannesburg, to see the town and the mines and work there and make some money", and as a result they come forward to us, they offer themselves, and they are recruited.

Do you think any appreciable number are in that way induced to go who would not otherwise have gone? Are there many who are persuaded in that way to go?- Yes, I should think that by advertising a good few boys who would otherwise never have gone have now gone to work.

Is not economic pressure the chief factor which makes him go out to work and earn money?- Well, I suppose it is so today.

Is not that the explanation why these boys come along?x They hear you are taking on recruits and they come to you, but they would go to work anyhow, would they not?- They would go to work in any case, but the boy who has been accustomed to go ^{to} the sugar estates in the past will not go to the Reef. Only very few of them will go to the Reef.

Is not the pressure on the Native such now that all of them who are recruited now would in any case go forward

Messrs. Keightley & Nelson

to the big centres to work, or at anyrate to some class of work?- Yes, that is so.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: But you said just now that the fact of your advertising makes those boys go to work who would not otherwise have done so?- Yes, I did say that and I say that by advertising we have increased the number of boys. But still, a good percentage would have had to go in any case. The economic pressure is such that they are forced to go. I have a lot of boys on my register today whom it really would not be necessary to recruit.

MR. LUCAS: That was in the past?- No, that is today. There are a good few for whom it would not have been necessary to go, but so far as 75% are concerned, taxes and hunger have forced them to go.

Would you not say more than 75%?- No, I do not think so.

And the other 25% need not go at all?- Not really. The majority of them are umfaans between the ages of 18 and 24, they are unregistered tax payers. So far they have had no taxes to pay and the first occasion when they will pay the tax is when I bring them to the office and they are registered then as tax payers. Those Natives would not have been recruited otherwise; they are recruited simply because they want to see Johannesburg and I must admit that at their homes there is probably a shortage of grain, and so they go.

There is the same reason which either immediately or later on would drive them out to go to work?- Yes, that is so.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: You are rather contradict yourself?- In one or two instances, perhaps, but there are boys who need not necessarily be recruited. But I say that 75% of these boys are in such a position economically that

Messrs. Edghtley & Nelson

they have got to go to work.

MAJOR ANDERSON: And you provide the machinery by which the occupation is offered and by which they are enabled to go to work? Yes, that is so, the recruiter is just the machinery to provide them with the opportunity.

MR. LUCAS: All you do is to direct them, not to make them work or go to work, if they would not otherwise have gone to work? All we are here for is the purpose of directing them.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: But there are places where your recruiters go through the kraals and where they have their runner boys? Well, my experience with the runners is that as soon as I send them among the Natives, they run away from them. That is what I have generally found.

MR. MOSTERT: Have you done away with the runners? No, the runners are kept for the specific purpose of rounding them up after they have attested and when they are not fulfilling their contract.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Why do they not fulfil their contracts? Well, they want to go and plough. They have been attested, they have had their advance, and then they find that they would rather stay at home.

So recruiting is a pressure; once they have been recruited they must go? Yes.

MR. MOSTERT:
If a Native does not get a prod occasionally to come along, does he come along? I do not suppose so.

You have given the Native an advance of £2 or £3 but unless you send to the kraal and tell him to come along he will not come. He will not come along by himself? I will not say that about all of them. A few of them come of their own accord.

I am speaking generally? Generally, the runner

Messrs. Keightley & Nelson

has to go and collect them in.

And if you did not do that, you would not get them to go away? - No, that is so. (Mr. Keightley): I also recruit for the Native Recruiting Corporation, but I find that it is the Natives knowledge of his responsibilities, after he has signed the contract and after he has got an advance, which makes him go forward. He knows that if he does not go forward under such circumstances, we can prosecute him. I cannot agree that there is no persuasion in the matter of recruiting and I find that I get quite a number of boys as a result of persuasion. Then there is another thing which induces the boys to go, and that is the fact that they see their friends go, they see their friends go off to earn money and to go to the big towns, and the result is that they themselves go along to accompany their friends.

MR. LUCAS: Is not the main reason why they go really that they are short of money and want to earn some? - Yes, I suppose so. Starvation and the necessity to pay their taxes are the two principal factors which cause them to go to work. They realise that they have to earn some money.

And the recruiter helps to direct them to one branch of employer instead of to another? - We are recruiting exclusively for the Native Recruiting Corporation which, I daresay you know, is the Chamber of Mines, and they have the right to choose which particular mine they would like to work for.

MR. MOSTERT: I suppose you find that quite a lot of voluntary boys go up? - No, we do not find that from this district.

MR. LUCAS: What is the railway fare from here to the Rand? - It varies from £1:10:0 to £1:11:6.

Have you ever worked out what is the actual nett

Messrs. Keightley & Nelson

return to the Native who is recruited, what is the actual return for the period he is away, what does it work out per month?- I think his food costs him 5/- each way. Everything depends on the situation of the mine which he is going to. If he goes to one part of the Rand the trainfare is £1:10:0 and to another it is £1:11:6. Let us take the fare at £1:11:6. His food costs 5/- and 5/- is his lorry fare. They will not walk nowadays since the introduction of these lorries. So that makes it £2:1:6 each way, or £4:1:3 return. But do not let us lose sight of the fact that, although that Native recruits for nine months, he can stay on the mines for two years, if he wants to.

Would you say that any substantial proportion of these Natives stay for any longer than nine months?- Oh, yes, quite a lot of them do.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: What proportion of the Natives do you think go out to work, say from this district?- From this district I am afraid a very small percentage, if you take the whole of the population of the district into consideration.

What do the balance do?- Well, they have enough food to carry on; they do not worry.

You said that hunger and drought are driving them out?- Yes, those that go.

And that is a very small percentage as a whole?- What number do you consider we send out. The Chamber of Mines can give you the exact figures. (Mr. Nelson): Approximately 800 boys from this district go to the mines every year to work.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Do they go to any other districts as well, do they go to wattle and sugar estates?- Yes, a few, but this number which I have given you is just for the Chamber of Mines.

Messrs. Keightley & Nelson

DR. ROBERTS: I have always been in great difficulty with regard to this question of labour. They say we have reached the absolute limit of Native labour, that is if you take a little over one million able-bodied men, these can all be used. If that is the case, how is it then that there are so many men over who are not on the mines or working in the docks and elsewhere?-(Mr. Nelson): Well, you have the owners of kraals and the old men.

But the young men?- All the capable and fit men are out at work.

Do you think we have reached the limit?-(Mr. Nelson): No, I do not think so, not all the younger men are out.

MAJOR ANDERSON: When they come back, how long do they stay here?-(Mr. Nelson): Some stay a week and go back, some stay three months or six months, that is about the longest. (Mr. Keightley): I have had them stay longer than that.

MR. LUCAS: Can you tell us why they stay such a short time?-(Mr. Nelson): Well, they are accustomed to the living on the Reef.

Is it their economic position here?-(Mr. Nelson): That has a lot to do with it. They come here and they live on mealie meal and milk and then their cash is finished. On the Reef they know they can have what they want, and so they go.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Do you know whether they send a lot of the money they earn back here?-(Mr. Nelson): What comes through my hands amounts to between £400 and £500 a month. That is paid out to their wives, their mothers and their fathers. (Mr. Keightley): Then, in addition, there are remittances through the Magistrate as well.

MR. MOSTERT: That would be about £5,000 or £6,000 a year?-(Mr. Nelson): I think it is a good deal more than that. (Mr. Keightley): Some of the Natives go

Messrs. Keightley & Nelson.

on deferred pay. Although they make a remittance, they do not remit all the money, but only a portion of it, and when they leave the train at Matatiele, they draw the balance of their pay and they bring it back with them. This deferred pay is taken by quite a number of them and, as a matter of fact, I try to persuade them to go in for the system of deferred pay. It is all to their own benefit. I might say that we do not handle the deferred pay at all, it all goes through the office, and a great many of them seem to like it very much, as it means that they have something when they come back to their homes.

Mr. Eric Tom Cundill (Attorney)

called and examined:-

CHAIRMAN: I understand that you want to give evidence on the subject of Native litigation, and more especially on the subject of Native credit?- Yes, I want to say that, in regard to purely Native court cases there has been a great decrease in litigation since I first came to the Transkeian Territories. That is particularly so in respect of contentious matters. I put that down to the fact that the Native customs are better known today than they used to be in the past. We now get regular reports from the Native Appeal Courts and, obviously, that has reduced to a very great extent the amount of contentious work which comes before any Court, but owing to economic reasons lately, in this district, there has been a considerable increase in the number of cases on our roll. This increase is reflected in the amount of contested work coming before the Court, and principally that is due to the fact that traders are trying to enforce the payment of back debts.

Messrs. Keightley & Nelson

Of course, the Native as a general rule is a very bad payer. When you press him into court and when you take judgment against him, his custom is to hide his cattle and his sheep. He guards his cattle and his sheep as his children, and invariably, when a writ of execution is issued and the cattle are attached, you find that these cattle are claimed by numerous other people, and in almost every case one knows, although one cannot prove it, that these claims are bogus.

We have felt that considerably, and this has led to an increase in the amount of contentious litigation before this Court. There has been a considerable increase in that. As a practical means of remedying that, I think it would be to the benefit of the Native and of the trader too, if possibly the registration of stock could be made compulsory. I want to say at once that I do not think it would be fair to put this responsibility on any Magistrate, because I think that magistrates have quite enough to do as it is without having the charge of registers and so on added to their burdens, but I do think that the stock inspectors or the dipping supervisors might have registered on which they might make remarks in connection with any cases of changes of ownership. Any claims in that respect could then be dealt with and, I think, that would help considerably. It would help the trader very much. I started practising here before the War and I have been here ever since, with just a break during the War period.

MR. MOSTERT: In the ownership of cattle, would you perhaps suggest a branding registration?— Well, the trouble with the Native is that he has his own method of marking his cattle by means of earmarks. You find in many instances that those earmarks are duplicated and that

Messrs. Keightley & Nelson

adds to a lot of complications. Besides these marks are very easily taken off. There is nothing in the stock registers to indicate what these earmarks are, and an earmark means nothing really. In a case like that, the creditor cannot lead evidence even as to what the earmark of the owner is, it would not help him at all.

I placed this matter before the Chief Magistrate on two occasions. In the first instance it was brought up before Mr. Warder when he was Chief Magistrate, and after going into it he held that it would interfere with a very desirable custom of the lending of stock for use by one man to another, and in view of that he would not entertain the idea which I put forward. Then I put the matter before the present Chief Magistrate, Mr. Welsh. He said that it would lead to a lot of transfers and such things, and he also said that he would not be a party to placing more responsibilities on the Magistrate's Officers. Well, I agree with him there, but I do feel that this is a matter which the stock inspectors would be able to deal with.

There is one other point also in regard to this district, it is in regard to the economic position, particularly of the trader. In this district we have practically all the available trading sites taken up. It is a district 929 square miles in extent, and we have a population which I estimate at 31,000. There are about 40 licenses in this district which I consider is too much for such a district. The Native has not enough money to circulate and to keep such a number of licenses going. You find vast tracts of land, particularly towards the Berg and also in the direction of the Maclear district very sparsely populated by the Natives. For some reason or another, the movement of the Natives from the Southern Territory is very slow. But I understand that the Chief Magistrate has taken up

Messrs. Keightley & Nelson

a very strong stand and that he will not allow any extra territorial Natives to come into this area. There are Natives who are thrown out from farms between Maclear and Sterkstroom, probably owing to the fact that they have acquired more cattle than the farmers are able to graze. They have trekked all about looking for homes where they can settle down and in desperation they have come here to settle, but the Chief Magistrate on every occasion has turned down their application to come here. That has invariably been the case. I think it is a very great hardship, and not only that. I think the introduction of additional Natives into this district would economically be a very good thing, not only for the Native but also for the traders, because, as I have said, the district is very sparsely populated in parts.

DR. ROBERTS: Do you think that the Natives would be willing to accept those people, because we have had evidence today to the opposite effect. We have been told that they do not want any extra territorial Natives here?- Of course, that is the difficulty, but I do not think that they would mind. After all, one can hardly treat these people as extra territorial Natives. They are people of their own flesh and blood, and they would not object to them, I think. On the other hand, if you were to take Natives away from one of the big centres and send them here, then I think there would be an uproar, but these people are different. These people have relatives on this side, and yet they are meeting today with all sorts of difficulties when they want to come and settle here. I think this is a matter which the Commission should give its serious consideration.

Messrs. Keightley & Nelson

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: One of the traders told us here this afternoon that he had not lost more than £10 in bad debts in all the years he had traded here. If that is so, then where do you get all this litigation from? Well, I heard what that trader said, and I think he is rather an optimist. I think that if you^{had}/question^{ed}/him a little further you would have found that he has many thousands of pounds on his books and that if he tried to collect this money today he would have the greatest difficulty in doing so.

CHAIRMAN: He considers that the debts are still good, although they may be bad? He puts them down because there is this factor, that with the Native, provided you leave him alone and do not sue him, he may pay you even when you have completely forgotten about his debt. His children will even pay you sometimes, after he has died. But let me tell you this, that the Native in that respect is not what he was.

He is copying the European again, is he? He is by no means the same man that he was.

DR. ROBERTS: Is his sense of honour going down? I think so, undoubtedly. I know at one time in the territories, before the promulgation of the Usury Act, people used to lend money out at enormous interest and the Native would religiously pay the interest and he would never query it. Yet the debt always remains the same.

What interest do they pay? Sometimes they paid as much as 2/6d per £ per month. But today the Native would not do that. He has changed in very many respects, I can assure you.

The Commission adjourned at 4.25 p.m. until 9.15 a.m. on Saturday, November 1st 1930.

[2696]

~~20490~~

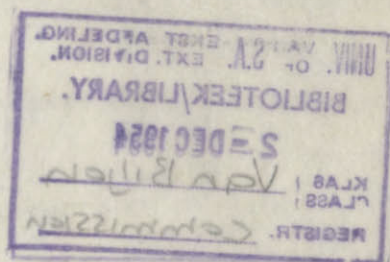
I N D E X

Mr. W. W. Dana

Pages 2696 - 2715

Chief S. M. Lehana and)
S. Lesuthu)

" 2715 - 2725



~~SECRET~~

[50122]

I N D E X

Pages 2698 - 2712

Mr. W. W. Dana

2712 - 2725

(Chief S. M. Lehman and
S. Leontin)

