

I N D E X

Mr. A. O. B. Payn, (M.P.) pages 3376 - 3399

Native Witnesses: " 3400 - 3415

Rev. A. A. Hoadley " 3415 - 3433

Mr. G. K. Hemming " 3433 - 3466

Rev. R. Mure " 3466 - 3472

Mr. W. H. H. Green 3472 - 3491^c

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NATIVE ECONOMIC COMMISSION

UMTATA 17th NOVEMBER 1930 9.35 a.m.

FIFTIETH PUBLIC SITTING

PRESENT:

	Dr. J. E. Holloway, (Chairman),	
Major W. R. Anderson,	Mr. A. M. Mostert,	
Dr. H. C. N. Fourie,	Dr. A. W. Roberts,	
Mr. F. A. W. Lucas, K.C.,	Senator P.W. le Roux Van Niekerk	
	Mr. C. Payne, (Secretary)	

Mr. ALFRED OWEN BALLENE PAYN, M.P. called and examined:

CHAIRMAN: Have you a statement to make on any of the points in our list of subjects?— I have not a written statement.

I take it there are points in the list on which you wish to speak?— Yes, I have gone through the list, and I wanted to deal chiefly with the economic position of the Natives in the Transkei. I want to point out - no doubt it has already been pointed out to the Commission - that the dependence of the Natives is upon the mines. Their every source of income is comparatively limited; practically the only real source of wealth that the Native has had in the past - or had for many years - was cattle and a few sheep, and owing to the restrictions that have been placed upon the cattle market in the Transkei for the last twenty years, owing to East Coast fever, cattle today are more of a liability than an asset. The Native is unable to realise anything for his cattle; and so the only other source of wealth is wool, which is comparatively small.

During the last three or four years they have been able to export a small quantity of mealies - nothing to speak of. So, speaking generally, the Native here is almost entirely dependent on the Rand Mines for his livelihood; and if anything happened to the mines, I am afraid the position, as far as the Native is concerned, would be extremely serious. The Native

today has become poorer, although he has a larger number of cattle. I do not think the Transkei has carried so many cattle in the past as today. The outward symbol of wealth in cattle is perhaps greater than ever before, but the actual value of the cattle is practically nothing, there is only the value of the hide.

What is that?— Anything between 10/- and 5/- at the present time.

It must be a very good hide to be worth 10/- ?— Well, 5/- to 10/-— For sheep skins they are getting about 1d each. I think the Native up here has been treated unfairly with regard to his cattle. There are districts in the Transkei here which have never had East Coast fever, but they are bound by these regulations and restrictions, and they have not been able to export cattle, and the consequence is that the cattle today are of no value at all. I do not suppose there is any part of South Africa where dipping is and has been better controlled than in the Transkei generally. I think if you, in travelling through, were to examine the cattle, you would find them almost entirely free of ticks. Because of one isolated district, that surrounding districts and others that have never had East Coast fever, should be placed in the position of not being able to deal in their cattle, is unfair. I think, if the Native were fairly dealt with and that at any rate he should be able to supply his own people on the Rand - or should have the opportunity of supplying his own people on the Rand with meat, -he should be able to compete in that market. I do not say he could, but he should have the right to do so.

The other point I should like to deal with in connection with the Mines is the desirability of having compulsory deferred pay. In Pondoland, most of the Natives are paid on the deferred pay system, but in other parts of the country they have not taken to it very freely. The general complaint of parents is that their boys go up to the Rand and

on their first visit up there they remit their money home but, on the second visit, they become accustomed to the amenities of so-called civilisation and they squander their money, and it frequently happens - I should say it invariably happens - that the so-called detribalised Native of the Rand is a man who has squandered his money up there and been too ashamed to return to his family. I think, if the deferred pay system were introduced, you would find it would tend to decrease these so-called detribalised Natives. The term, I think, is a wrong term; I would rather call them "urbanised" Natives. I think, if the Native retained a stake in this part of the country - if the Native up there knew that, at the end of his contract, say twelve months, when he returned here he had money to draw, I think you would find that would help very greatly to decrease this evil that is spreading through the large centres. It may be a hardship to say a man should not be able to spend the money he himself earns as he desires, but still we have to realise these young men have been under the authority of their parents and they have suddenly been given a freedom to which they have not been accustomed, and I think I can unhesitatingly say that the parents of these boys would all prefer a system of that kind - in fact they have agitated for it on many occasions at my meetings, when I go round my constituency. As you know, the Natives here have a vote; they have frequently pressed that point - that is the necessity of safeguarding the earnings of their sons on the Rand.

The compulsory deferred pay system_x has been introduced, I understand, in Mozambique Territory, and I certainly think it would assist the Natives and assist the general position if some system of that kind were introduced. There is a great danger of the Natives becoming what we might call poor blacks - they have not reached that stage yet;

their communal system is such that they help each other. If one family is impoverished, it can usually go to one or other of the branches of the family and obtain help during times of drought, starvation and so forth; but our European system is very gradually killing that, and you get individualism springing up among the Native and you do not get that help from the family that we had during past years.

It stands to reason, as these families become impoverished, they will develop into poor blacks and nothing else. I think that will be a dangerous state of affairs. We have not sufficient land here in the Transkei to give every married man a holding. In every district you will find men who have been paying taxes for quite a number of years, who have not been able to get land; and, I think, if you have a landless Native together with a Native who has no movable property at all, the position will become acute, and you will find there is only one direction in which they can drift, and that is to the towns. If they have not land here on which to grow crops and they have not stock, they will simply become hangers on in the towns. That is one of the grave evils that we are facing in this country, this tendency of the Native to drift into the towns and become poor blacks in the towns.

I do not think the Government have extended sufficient financial assistance to the Natives in the development of their lands. In the Transkei here, what development has taken place has taken place entirely from the funds of the Bunga. I do not think the Government, since I have been representing this constituency over in the Provincial Council - that was for ten years -, and in the House of Assembly for the last six or seven years, -- I think I can unhesitatingly say the Government have not

contributed any money towards land development, irrigation development, or towards the assistance of the Natives in any shape or form. I think that is wrong. You have your Land Bank for the European - they are assisted in many ways, and rightly, I think. The country needs development and can only be developed under the system as carried on by the Land Bank and other kindred bodies, but I do think that a Bank of some sort, or some financial assistance of some sort, should be extended to the Natives to develop.

Going through the Territories as you have done, you will notice the country is well-watered, but I do not think you will find any irrigation schemes of any kind; I do not think you will find that the water is utilised to the extent it should be; and if sources of income were given to Natives by which they could develop their land, probably the productive wealth of the country would be increased to a large extent, and you would not have that menace of the poor blacks that we have today. It is generally said by people who travel through the Transkei, that the country can carry a much larger population - people motoring through and seeing the huge open spaces and so on; but if you examine that country carefully, you will see it is over-grazed, it is overstocked, and when you realise that in some of these districts we are carrying 100 people to the square mile, - in the Elliotdale District on an average of 50 to 60 to the square mile - the country is carrying as much as it can, certainly under present conditions, - in fact the country is carrying more today than it can reasonably be expected to carry as conditions obtain today.

No doubt with better agricultural methods, with better stock, it might carry a slightly larger population, but still I do not think it will carry more than the normal increase that we can expect during the next 15, 20 or 25 years,

which is the period we shall have to anticipate, I suppose.

Now, dealing with the cattle question. As I have said before, the cattle are the symbol of wealth to the Native. You will all realise it is not only the Natives who is being faced with this difficult position, but the European farmers have exactly the same position to face. We have a surplus of stock in this country that we do not know what to do with. Whilst in other parts of the country the Natives are meat eaters, here in the Transkei they have never been trained to eat meat; the only time they do is when a beast dies or at a sacrifice or a wedding. I want to urge upon you, gentlemen, to try and train the Natives to be meat eating people as a class. I urged in the House of Assembly and also before Mr. Thornton, the Director of Native Agriculture - I put before him a proposal that traders and Natives in these areas here should be allowed to sell meat without having to take out a butcher's license and having to all the regulations, the Government put on butchers; you have to have cement floors and all sorts of appurtenances in a butcher's shop. I have urged that traders should be allowed to sell meat without a butcher's shop. I think, if one could make a beginning in that direction, it might help.

Once the Natives become a meat eating people - not only that but they are accustomed to buying meat and depend to a certain extent on meat - it would help very much to ease the position generally. Instead of paying a £5 butcher's license, let them take out a registration certificate for 2/6d nominally, and so try to assist in that direction, or make a start at anyrate. That is one phase.

Of course, the other is the development of canning industries in this country. The Imperial Cold

Storage people have made a start in East London, but do not seem to have made very much progress so far. At anyrate, we are not exporting any very large number of stock from here. I may say that I, personally, hold the view that you will not get any real land development amongst the Natives until they have fenced their holdings. Practically the only crop you can grow up here is maize. This is not a rich country agriculturally. The land is poor. It is undulating, heavy, storms occur and half the soil is washed away to the sea every year; and if things continue as they are, this country will be washed away to the sea within the next fifty years.

CHAIRMAN: Surely there are something less than fifty halves in one whole; you said half would be carried away in one year?— Well, I was speaking generally; half the fertility of the soil is being carried away. You have to realise too, that the Native today is using practically all the fallings from the cattle - the dung - for fuel. The country is not being naturally fertilized as it was before. I think plantations should be established in order to save that part of the soil that seems wasted. The Native cannot resist chopping down a tree. As you will see, if you follow the banks of these rivers, there are no trees left at all. It is due to lack of firewood. I, personally, think that plantations should be established in every location so as to try and avoid this waste. I live on a farm here and I can assure you I have a tremendous amount of difficulty in keeping the women off the farm; they come into the farm to collect the manure the cattle drop. I am farming myself, so I speak from experience. I view that, from a serious point of view; there is no natural fertility going back to the soil at all. This is a poor country, as I said before; it is difficult to raise more than five or six bags

8
Mr. Payne

to the acre. If you do fertilize, it is swept away by storms. So I do not think we can anticipate this country will ever produce more than eight bags to the acre. I think, if we can get that, it will be about as much as we can do. I am speaking about the Transkei as a whole, but there are parts which produce 15 or more bags. I think the Natives should be encouraged to fence their holdings so as to bring about rotation of crops. He is entirely dependent on mealies today; he cannot grow anything else. On account of the conditions which prevail amongst communal Natives, any Native who puts in beans or any other crop is practically taboo amongst his friends, because the cattle get into the lands and there is trouble; their conditions force them, more or less, to grow nothing but maize. Until we can change that, I do not think you will find they will protect their holdings to the extent they should, nor value them to the extent they should, and to the extent of depending entirely on cattle for a livelihood.

If they were encouraged to fence their holdings and look upon them as the real source of wealth, it would be altogether to the benefit of the Native. I think the Government should take into serious consideration and the advisability of helping Natives to fence their holdings. The Bunga already do it; but still, I think if we gave them funds and a little more push - if the Native realised it was in his interest and that the Government was desirous of helping him, I think he would appreciate help of that kind and learn to value his holdings more than he does at present.

Those, gentlemen, are my ^{general} views on the economic position of the Native up here. I may say I was born in Umtata and have lived here all my life; I have grown up here.

This document of yours here certainly covers every possible phase of Native development, non-development and everything else. I think you can write a book on every paragraph and sub-paragraph. If there is any information I can give you dealing with any other matters here, I would be prepared to do so. I may say, sir, for your information, that I practised in the legal line here; for some eight or ten years I was interested in trading during the recruiting craze of 1912/1913/1914, and during the last six years, since I have been interested in politics, I have been farming. So I have a fairly diverse experience. My constituency extends from St. Johns right up to the boundaries of Queenstown, Lady Frere district, and formerly the Transkei was also part of my constituency. So I claim to have a fair knowledge of the conditions generally in the Transkeian Territories.

If there are any points, I think it is better that you should question me on them, rather than that I should volunteer points of information which perhaps you do not think it necessary for me to touch on to any great extent. I, therefore, place myself in your hands.

CHAIRMAN: On the question of deferred pay, are you referring to Natives who go to work generally, or any particular class?— I am referring to the Natives who go to the Rand chiefly.

Generally?— Yes, generally, because I do not think it is possible for Natives going to farms ---

Would you bring about compulsory deferred pay irrespective of the age of the man?— Yes.

Or whether he is married or not?— I would take no cognisance of his age or condition.

Now, with regard to Europeans, I do not know if you are aware that no such provision can now be made but, with regard to the Natives, special legislation would be required for it?— Yes.

Would not that be class legislation?— Well, I think if you go through the legislation of this country, you will find it is all class legislation; it would not be a beginning by any means. You have to deal with a subject race along different lines; you cannot help it.

You think class legislation is required under these circumstances?— I do not see that you can possibly avoid it as far as the Native is concerned; you have it in liquor, and I think everybody in this country realises it, and it applies to a good many other things.

Now, that would bring the Natives back here regularly. So that would bring about the situation that he would remain a casual labourer?— Yes.

The point I would like to know is, whether you do not think the fact that the Native, as a casual labourer, would detract from his economic development?— Yes, to a certain extent I should say it would, because if he is not a permanent worker, it stands to reason he can never attain to important positions that he could attain to if he were a permanent worker.

Do you think the necessity of bring him home regularly is of more importance than purely economic —?— Yes, I think for hygienic and health reasons - you must realise the Native has not been trained to work for generations; the European has been able to work for the last 500 years - we would perhaps like to dodge it, but economic conditions are such that we cannot; it is only just during the last 20 years that the Native has become a worker, as the European regards it. I think it is necessary that the Native should have a rest and have the necessary home comforts and so forth. I cannot see the Native ever becoming an urban dweller with a family - not the Transkeian Native at anyrate. I do not think it is in his interests that he should become a town dweller.

MR. LUCAS: Is not some other development

necessary - one to let him live and become more or less a permanent worker in his own area? - If you help him in his agricultural development, a man could be fairly employed on his ten acres of ground and could go out to work occasionally.

Do you think it is a desirable system that takes a man away from his family for nine or twelve months in a year? - It is not desirable but I do not see how it can be avoided.

Merely owing to the fact that he is not able to make a living in his own country? - I should certainly say, if he could make a living down here, he would not go out.

Leaving out the desire of the European for getting wealth out of Native labour, is it a desirable system to take him away at all? - Well, I do not think you will ever train your Native to become a worker, unless you train him along these lines in the first instance and gradually acclimatise him to work, when he will gradually become a worker.

Has it not been done rather rapidly? - Yes.

Do you not think the Native, when once he understands why a thing should be done, takes it up very rapidly? - No, I do not think so. I speak from experience; I tried to train my boys to plough and to harrow decently and so on, but as soon as they go back to their kraals, they follow the old system.

Is not that due to the pressure of communal influence on them? - That pressure will remain, it will continue to exert a greater power than the individual teaching they have been getting.

Is it not breaking down very rapidly in certain important centres now? Take a location such as I was at yesterday; there is some very fast work being done there? - Wherever you have a town, you will find a certain number of Natives in the vicinity of a town who have developed and are developing; but when you get away from the precincts of the town it is slower; you get more development in the

12
immediate vicinity of towns than right out in the country.

Would you not say the development has been much faster in the last five years than the five years before that? - I think it is a slow process.

I am not questioning that at the moment; I am just trying to see whether it is an accelerating process? - The effect of the Bunga - the agricultural colleges and so on - is being felt, and it is being felt more markedly in some places than others.

But the point I was asking your opinion on was whether it was not much more rapid today than, say, ten years ago? - Yes, I think it has been accelerated every year; I think it is increasing.

DR. ROBERTS: Is that your really thoughtful view, that it is accelerating each year more and more? - Yes, I think so. I speak from experience. When I came to my farm I started growing potatoes; I sold very few. This year I have sold every potato that I have produced; the Natives are buying largely. There is a development, but I think you will find that applies to the vicinities of the towns.

Beyond a certain limit of progress it has not been possible - that is to say the Native cannot obtain more than, say, four times what he is getting from the ground now? - I agree with you. My fear is, as the country is going today, he will gradually obtain less unless he adopts better methods.

Accelerating more and more would mean that his ground would produce more and more? - No, I do not agree with you there.

CHAIRMAN: With regard to the speed with which Natives at home are in the habit of working, in reply to Mr. Lucas you said that was very rapid. Do you not think that a great deal of progress which the Native has taken over from the European has gone very rapidly, not only in learning to

13 Mr. Payn

work, but in many other things? - I think the Native is a great ~~imitator~~ imitator; he certainly imitates our vices as well as our virtues and, where he comes into contact with the Europeans he certainly spends a good deal more. There is no question about that; but from the point of view of general development, I do not think that the course has been a very rapid one outside of the towns.

MR. LUCAS: Has much been done to try and make it rapid at a distance from the towns? - I do not think the Government have done sufficient. It is difficult to say what the Government should do. It is a learning nation and they learn a lot and it is difficult to know what they should be taught and what should be kept away from them, as it were. I think the only way is to help them to develop along the natural lines on which they would develop had they not come into contact with the European side of civilisation, but come into contact with the progressive side, rather.

Does that not involve finding out what their difficulties are and helping them to meet them? - Yes.

Has not much been done in that way by the Government? - I do not think so.

CHAIRMAN: Do you not think the speed of development has gone rather faster than the Native can keep up with? - In some directions, yes. I think if you take the educational movement, for instance, - if you take the experience of the Europeans and how long it has taken the European - it has taken 2,000 years - you get a number of Natives as well educated from the purely classical point as many Europeans; they have done it in a generation and there is a certain amount of over-balancing, at any rate.

From what point of view? - You have to realise that your educated Natives' requirements are much larger; he goes to Lovedale or one of these other institutions; he gets

Mr. Payn

a certain standard of living and so forth, but the moment he is put into the labour market, his services are of no more value than those of the uncivilised Native. He finds difficulty in meeting the position. He wants European clothing and to have his children educated and so on, but has not the necessary means.

We have created a supply where there is, as yet, no demand? - Yes, there is not sufficient demand. The only openings that your educated Natives today have got, after you take away your civil service, is the teaching profession and in the Bunga. The only openings they have got are in the large centres. When you get to Cape Town and go into the question there, you will find that the educated Native goes to Cape Town; they do not go to the Rand; they do not get sufficient money on the mines; they get better pay in Cape Town. He cannot earn sufficient by manual labour to satisfy either his requirements or those of his family.

MR. MOSTERT: AS far as deferred pay is concerned, I suppose you know that there is a deferred pay system, even today? - It is voluntary.

But the intention was for the younger boys to be on deferred pay - not the married boys? - I do not know what the intention was, but I simply know what the practise has been in the past. It is a voluntary system, pure and simple. The Native may sign on on the deferred pay system, if he wishes.

The deferred pay was for the small boy and you had to get the consent of his father or guardian before he could be attested? - Yes; well, I think the Native as a whole has not reached that stage at which -- you have to realise that, under the communal system, even if a man is a major under their own system, he is a minor so long as he is living at his father's kraal.

You mentioned about the Native or trader being able

Mr. Payn

sell meat; surely they can do that without a license? A farmer can sell meat?- I have been a farmer; you cannot sell by the pound; you have to sell by the quarter.

I am referring to the farmer?- No, the farmer cannot at all; I cannot sell a pound of meat to a Native on my farm; you have to pay £5 license and have premises suitable for a butcher's shop.

CHAIRMAN: You said you thought six bags to the acre was about the limit?- Eight, I think I said. I question whether the Native as a whole will ever be able to produce more than eight bags to the acre. I am speaking generally. As I say, St. Johns area is very fertile, but the country as a whole is not a very fertile country.

If you fertilised the lands, it would mean increasing the production threefold, would it not; but you are afraid that the march of progress in agriculture is not keeping pace with the retrogression going on through exhaustion of the soil?e
Yes.

Does that apply very much to ~~pasture~~ pasturage, too?- Yes, very much.

So, instead of the carrying capacity of the soil being increased, it is going down?- Yes.

The problem of agricultural training among the Natives there is of paramount importance?- Certainly, it is.

It affects the wealth producing capacity of a very large area?- It affects everything. If you realise that it must be shewn to the Native that, in a comparatively short time he will not have the Rand Mines to look to and will have to depend upon his labour and what the country produces - ~~xxxx~~ one dreads the time when a thing like that will happen, because his scale of civilisation will have been raised.

MAJOR ANDERSON: What proportion of the total pay would you suggest making deferred?- I should say two-thirds. I am speaking generally now, but I think that is a matter that

perhaps traders and people who are more actively interested in the monopoly side could answer, but I think, if a man is earning £3, he should at least have £1 himself and let him remit £2. I do not think you would find any difficulty from the young men, either, if they were told it was law.

DR. ROBERTS: I like the name that you have introduced much better than the other name - the one that you used, "Urbanised" Native. Do you think that a Native ever become urbanised? - He becomes demoralised very much in the towns. Speaking for the Transkei Native - I have met many of these Natives in Cape Town and discussed the position with them - although they have been there ten or fifteen years, they always talk about coming back home.

The longing is there? - Yes.

Do you think it will ever be possible for the Native to live on the land and not require to go? - Either he, or some of the men belonging to his kraal? - Not unless he goes back to the red blanket days. If his progress in civilisation continues to expand as it has done in the last fifteen years, I do not think the Native will ever be able to live on the land in the Transkei. You have got to realise that, if we cannot grow anything that the world demands that has a large monetary value, - if we cannot grow cocoa or cotton or things like that - we grow a certain amount of wool and mealies here, but outside those two factors, I think if we can produce anything in these Territories that would have a large monetary value, we would have found it out. I think it possible that a few citrus developments might occur along the coast; I believe you could grow certainly the finest citrus in Africa. If you did that, you would be in conflict with the Transvaal and other parts of the Union, and I do not think any government would help development in that direction, although I think they should.

So, seeing that land and allotment cannot increase, and the amount got from the land must be limited, it will be a future necessity for him to go out?— Oh, yes.

And, therefore, the direction of thought would be to help in that direction?— Yes; unless industries were started in the Territories here. That, of course, is a possibility. With your cheap Native labour here in the Transkei, which I believe could be made useful labour, if you had industries and factories started here in the Transkei, then probably it would not be necessary for the Natives to go further.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: With reference to deferred pay; did you mean that part of the Native's wages should be sent back monthly, or at the end of his contract?— It depends what his circumstances are. If he were a married man and had a family to support here, than I should say it would depend entirely on him whether he would want to remit it to his wife and family, or if he were a young man, to his parents. The complaint in the past from these young men has been that when they got back they expected to find two or three head of cattle had been bought for them, but they have found instead that their money has been squandered. I think the sugar estates are doing probably more harm to the youth of this country than the mines.

If we were to introduce a compulsory system of deferred pay, could we do away with recruiting?— No, I do not think there is any necessity to do away with recruiting. I think you have to realise that a certain amount of pressure has to be brought on these boys, to get them to go to work. Many of the parents prefer them to go to a recruiter. Your trader is frequently a friend of the family; he is a 'money-maker'.

The money paid to the recruiter is deducted from

the Native's wages? - Is it? I believe the recruiting system has been reduced very considerably during the last few years.

MR. LUCAS: Would not pressure on the employers ultimately force them to pay that in increased wages? - I think, if you found you did away with your recruiting system tomorrow, as regards the mine Native, and no pressure was brought to bear, they would not pay the Natives any larger wages than are paid today.

Are you in a position to say what a Native gets nett, going up to the Transvaal? For the sugar estates it works out at 22/- a month for the time he is away - that is nett? The boy who goes up to the sugar estates, usually draws a wage of £2 a month.

No, it is 1/8d a shift? - That is roughly £2 a month.

He has got his railway fare to pay both ways; he loses a lot of days, and altogether he is away anything from eight to eleven months? - Yes; well, I have not analysed it. I should have thought that the Native drew more than that.

CHAIRMAN: Why are you so hard on the sugar industry? - I am not hard on them, but they take away such a lot of these youngsters; it is the sugar estates that encourage them to go up.

If you buy a shirt that has been made by sweated labour, not knowing that labour has been sweated, are you guilty of sweated labour? - Do you suggest the sugar estates do not know what is happening? If they do not, it is their duty to know. I have been told, on reliable information too, that it is a common practise for these recruiters to go along with a lorry, pick up these boys on the veld - they do not worry about passes; when they get to Natal, they want the labour and they simply carry them to the sugar estates. These are mostly young irresponsible boys, and when they get there, I can assure you they bring very little money back. The parents are always

complaining. I do not think sufficient control is kept over this class of boy; he is nothing but a boy.

Now, can you, from your own knowledge, put it in evidence that that sort of kidnapping of boys takes place - from your own knowledge of Tembuland or here? - I can assure you I have had parents looking for boys who have left the vicinity. They have come to see whether they have been found on my farm and they have eventually come back and said they have been advised that the boys have been sent to the sugar estates.

You blame the sugar people and you cannot vouch for it? - I was down in St. Johns recently, and I was told that was happening.

Now, let us follow up that other point; you say the recruiting people should know it? - Yes. I will tell you this, my informant was one of the leading representatives of one of the recruiting bodies here, who told me this system was going on in Pondoland. He will probably be giving evidence before you.

So the people to blame are really the recruiters and not the sugar people? - No; I think the Rand Mines have their recruiters down here and they keep very close control over their recruiters, and so do the magistrates. If the Native Recruiting Corporation have a recruiter here who is unsatisfactory, they should go to the Government and say, "Do not renew his license".

In the case of the Rand Mines, there is one settled organization giving orders. In the case of the sugar estates, there are a number of people coming and hiring labour through the people who give the orders. The position is not quite the same? - It may be slightly different, but at the same time I think they should exert more control.

That is the point I want to come to. You consider that the power of recruiting here and the way in which it is done

should be subjected to very much closer Government control than it has at present? - Yes; I do not think that it could be subjected to greater control as far as the Rand is concerned; I think the general conditions as far as the Rand is concerned, are quite satisfactory: but I certainly think that better control should be exercised over recruiting for the Sugar Estates and better supervision exercised over the boys when they get there.

MAJOR ANDERSON: You know that in the case of the Sugar Estates, before they can get juveniles they have to obtain a certificate; they cannot legally employ juveniles unless they get a certificate? - We cannot legally, down here on the farms, get boys without the ~~parents'~~ parents' consent. When the planters up there require labour, I do not think they would be so particular.

They are liable to be run in if they do employ them. I believe there are cases in which the Labour Department has taken steps against them. These cases of kidnapping; do you report them to the authorities, or had you not a case to put before the authorities? -- No; it is in Pondoland; it is not from my constituency that these complaints have come.

We have heard of several similar complaints in evidence, but cannot get any definite information? - Have you taken evidence in Eastern Pondoland?

We hear these vague statements, but cannot get any instance? - My informant gave me the name of the man who was doing it, and he is one of the leading men in the Sugar world. He told me he would bring it up before you.

If you got a specific case, I suppose you would report it to the authorities? - I have plenty of trouble on my farm now; I do not know whether I shall look for any more.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is one of the things you are here for? - No, I do not think so; not as a private detective. If I saw something in the newspaper I might do something.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: The greatest evil the Territories are

Mr. Payn.

are confronted with is overstocking and the ruination of the country generally? - Overstocking is killing the country.

Do you think the remedy suggested by you is sufficient outlet for the Native cattle? - No, but I think it would be a beginning in one direction.

Would the Natives take kindly to a system of limitation? - Limitation of the number of stock?

Yes? - No, they would not. The thing is to try and find something that would take the place of stock, if one could - some other symbol of wealth. But I think you would probably find that they would not take kindly to limitation, and it would be extremely difficult to apply too; extremely difficult.

Has the lobolo system anything to do with overstocking? - No, I do not think so. I think the overstocking is due to your dipping regulations. We practically eradicated the tick from this part of the country, and there was very little mortality amongst the calves, and there is naturally an increase every year.

Will they sell their cattle? - Not when they are fat. They bring them to me when they are thin and ask me to buy; but I think they realise the economic position to-day.

Do you think it would be to the advantage of the natives to have the credit system? - I think so. The native is very conservative; he is very suspicious of the Government and what the Government is wanting to do.

The credit system is of great advantage to the Europeans? - We cannot ~~manage~~ live without it. You have got your native accustomed to the same thing. He is dependent on the Trader, in the first instance, for his requirements. You could not do away with it, unless the Government is prepared to buy every Trader out straightaway - which I do not suppose they would do.

Do you think that would be of assistance if the Government did that? - It would be a beginning.

Do you think the country lends itself to small or large

large irrigation schemes? - I would not go in for large schemes.

Does the country lend itself to these smaller schemes?
? - Yes. I would not touch anything larger than 40 or 50 acres. Water is a dangerous thing to play with. The native would have to learn.

You have no idea how many acres you would be able to put under irrigation? - I own a farm in the district here; I brought 150 acres under irrigation at a cost of £150. There are districts here in which you could bring 50, 60, or 70 acres under irrigation at very small cost.

How much land would you give a native to irrigate - an acre? - You could not divide it up. There would be trouble. They hold title in many instances. If you had the irrigation of land, the natives would ~~be~~ probably divide it up amongst the family. I would just take small schemes and let them develop naturally with them. If you go through Cala you will find quite a lot of land under irrigation there; the natives have developed a good deal in that direction.

DR. ROBERTS: The Lots are surveyed? - Yes; and in those other districts, too.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: The fact that there is a ready market for them as labourers must be to their advantage? - That is what they are depending on to-day; that is their existence. I do not think anybody would deny that.

From a labourer's point of view they are in almost an ideal position; they are what you call farm labourers; they have a holding on which they can do something; and then they have a market as a labour centre? - Yes, when these markets are close to them it would be an ideal position, but when they have to go away from home for nine or ten months, it is not ideal. You have got to realise these young men and boys should be at home for the ploughing season, and under the nine months' contract they cannot get back. It really represents a twelve months'

contract; it is 270 days.

I agree with you it has its ~~advantages~~ drawbacks, but it has its advantages too? - Yes, I think the native who has his home to come back to, and so on, is better off than the urbanised native, myself.

You seem to think that in the future there may not be enough openings for our native labour; but the fact that we are importing 80,000 labourers from Mozambique - it will take a considerable time before you can catch that up, even if the mines were to go back to a certain extent? - If you were to close the mines down to-morrow - that is, as I say, what we have to look at as a probability for the future - it is very difficult to say whether we shall be able to establish industries in this country - we have not the population; I do not see how we could do it unless we exported; and then you could not use all cheap native labour.

The native not being a meat-eating person, does that affect his stamina as a worker? - Well, I should think that is more a question for a doctor to answer.

We have been told that if we farmers fed our natives we should get much more work out of them? - It stands to reason if a person has a good feed of meat occasionally he would be a stronger man. But it is a question for a doctor.

DR. ROBERTS: Do you hold that the native is not a meat-eater, or that he cannot get meat to eat? - I say, unfortunately the conditions pertaining here have never encouraged him as in other parts of the country to be a meat eater. He eats meat. If anything dies he eats it; he never refuses meat if he can get it. He even takes people's sheep in order to get the taste of meat, too. Very rarely do natives kill for the sake of getting the meat; it is either that the animal dies, or there is a sacrifice, or a wedding, or something of that sort. I think if a native knew he could get meat at a Trading Shop, or something

something like that, it would help.

You spoke about fencing for the natives. If the natives had to fence their plots, would it be of great economic advantage to them? - I do not see that you will ever get rotation of crops amongst the natives until the lands are fenced. I think it is very necessary it should be done.

It prevents their going in for winter crops? - Yes, or any outside the maize season.

Or even winter ploughing? - It is very little use ploughing your land if all the cattle in the country are going to tramp it to pieces.

Do you know of any industry which could be opened with advantage to the natives? - Personally I think the tanning and leather industry lends itself very much to development in these Territories. I saw a certain gentleman in connection with the matter and pointed out that we had the hides, the wattle bark, the water and cheap labour, and I tried to interest him but he said, "Do you think a Nationalist Government would allow such an industry as that to be opened up in a Native area when you have 30 similar industries established in the Union." He said, "As soon as that starts in Umtata there will be a wages board there, or something like that, and I won't touch it!"

Has the Native had an opportunity in any way in that direction? - They have a basket industry some 25 miles out, and they are doing very good work in that direction.

Is there any home industry that will take on as a whole amongst the natives? - I think you will find basket weaving and cane chairs, and so on; I think it is possible to do something in that direction. I think once they realise they can have a ready market for that sort of thing, instead of it being imported from Maderia and such places, the natives would go in for it. I think that is the most promising industry the natives have got up here.