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were 5,000 or 6,000 Natives came in to meet him and they expected great things from him and they were practically left disappointed. The only point that seemed to be grasped by the Natives was when an old man, after the meeting, shouting, went down the street, "This man told us to get rid of the nkanga", - that is the noxious weed, and I think the Natives have been groping for a number of years. I have been in a peculiar position to notice them; I have been reporting the Bunga proceedings for the last ten years and, I think, the Natives in the past have been groping about to find something and to find some encouragement from the various Governments, and that they have found none.

As a rule, Mr. Chairman, after a visit of some member of one Government or another - not this Government particularly - but, as a rule we find that next Session some tax or other is put on.

Now, with regard to Native taxation; I think one of the most disastrous taxes that was imposed by the late Government was the tobacco tax. We had here a very, very flourishing tobacco industry which the traders were doing their utmost to cultivate amongst the Natives, and they were growing very, very fine tobacco; but the tax was imposed and a year after this practically no tobacco was grown at all and, today, you will find that the tobacco industry has not yet recovered from the tax.

Then, the next point I should wish to make, Mr. Chairman, is with regard to the restrictions on the importations of cattle. I do not think you would find a community in any part of the world who would, for twenty years, sit under the restrictions which have been imposed on these Territories with regard to cattle. During the last ten or twelve years, millions and millions of cattle

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have been introduced - in fact the Territories have been the dumping ground for the scrub cattle of the Union.

CHAIRMAN: What has happened to them? - Every winter about half or threequarters of them die.

You said millions have been introduced! I was wondering what had happened to them? - One year in particular, there were over 50% or 60% of the cattle died in the lower district, through poverty.

Would that amount to as many as a million? - No; perhaps it is rather an exaggeration to say that, but in the last ten years there have been over a million cattle introduced into the Territories from the scrub cattle of the Union.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK:

Are you quite sure of those figures? - Yes.

I know a speculator in Umtata who, during the course of his transactions, has introduced 48,000 head, - that is during the course of about eight, or nine or ten years.

CHAIRMAN: Over a million in ten years, you say? - Yes, there have been over a million introduced into the Territories in ten years.

They have increased very slowly? - They are dying off faster than they are introduced. Every year they have to be replaced because the type of cattle to which I refer practically consist of only four legs and they cannot last through the winter. Then, Mr. Chairman, in addition to that, we have not been allowed to export our cattle at all; that has been practically so for twenty years, and, what ought to be the wealth of the Natives, has practically become at the present day, a burdon to them. The veld has been overstocked, and we have now, owing to the Administration's good graces, - the Bunga - stopped the importation of cattle altogether. I do not think you would

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find, in any European community in the world, such conditions would have been allowed to prevail. We had East Coast fever at Komgha not so long ago and, in about three months, the farmers were up in arms, but the Natives have sat under the restrictions and obeyed the law and still we are no nearer getting relief than we were twenty years ago.

CHAIRMAN: We went very fully into that matter with the Chief Magistrate and his colleagues yesterday? - Then the next point my Chamber would like to bring forward, Mr. Chairman, is the point that we should like compulsory deferred pay. We think that a system of compulsory deferred pay should be introduced by the Government for the Natives. At the present time, I am informed by traders - or have been able to get figures - that fifty percent of the earnings of the Natives is spent up on the Rand.

You see them coming down very often with a concertina or gaily painted box or a mangey horse that they have bought up there.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: What is inside the box? - Sometimes clothes, sometimes trinkets of various descriptions but nothing of use at all.

Is not clothing of use? - Most of it is not: perhaps a pair of boots; that is about the only thing he brings home: his clothing is practically nil.

Have you examined those boxes? - I have seen one or two, not many.

CHAIRMAN: In buying horses up there, do they give preference to mangey horses? - Well, the people who sell them have only mangey horses to sell, because we have found, in many instances, when the horses come down here and are detrained, they are full of mange. We have had a great deal of trouble in the Territories owing to that.

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Another point that we think, Mr. Chairman, the Commission might consider, is the giving of the Natives who learn trades full rights to practise their trades within the Territories. As you know, the Wages Board has fixed certain trades for Europeans and we are afraid that it may extend to Natives. At the present time, many Natives who are educated at the colleges and have learned a trade, - I was more interested in the printing trade than any other - they have learned a trade and they can get quite a fair wage here, yet we are not allowed to employ them owing to the Conciliation Act. We think that is quite unfair. We think the Natives in their own Territories ought to be allowed to work without any restrictions whatever, so long as the Europeans are willing to treat them fairly.

Then there is the question of the tax on cotton blankets. That was another instance where Natives were very hardly pressed. I have been informed by a merchant in town that the shawls girls used to wear to go to school cost 5/- before, and that they now cost about 10/- with the extra duty. The result, he says, is this, that today the little girls have no shawls at all and practically have to wear only a cheap German print. The same applies to cotton blankets. We appealed to the Minister of Finance, Mr. Havenga, when he was here, to try and get a remission of the tax, but he said it was impossible, as they wished to encourage industries in this country. Well, according to the merchant I spoke to, he said that the article that is manufactured in South Africa today is quite unsuitable for the Natives.

There again, the Natives have been practically

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denuded of their wealth and comfort through what I would say is unjust taxation.

MR. LUCAS: Do the Natives have colonial blankets palmed off on them as European - as English? - No, I do not think so; no, the traders do not do that.

I have heard they did? - I do not think they do. They know a blanket when they see it and they are very, very acute about accepting an article that they do not want.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: But when you start a new industry by taxation you must expect these things? - But, is it fair to impose taxes on a population of people who practically have nothing on which to make ends meet?

But your industries usually start with a lower class of goods; the first pair of boots made in this country were veldschoens and then slowly you go up; you cannot start by taxing a very finely made blanket? - There is a special class of blanket suitable for the Natives alone that have been made for some time and have been allowed without taxation, without duty, until it would prove that this country would manufacture an article suitable for the Natives. As a matter of fact, an American told me distinctly that he did not approve of the blanket and the Native did not approve of it; they cannot manufacture a blanket suitable for the Native in this country at the present time.

Why not? - I do not know; the conditions are wrong, they say, they cannot do it.

MR. MOSTERT: Are there any further points? - The only point I should like to raise personally, I think, is that the Native Territories should come under a dictatorship. I think the Chief Magistrate should be appointed. The Native Territories have made great progress and I think

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the Chief Magistrate should have the final say in Native affairs in the Territories. It is disturbing and the Natives feel it, that they cannot have one man to whom they can look and say, "This man can do this or that"; they feel that, when the Native question is brought into the political ~~xxxxx~~ arena, there are so many diversities of opinions that they feel they do not get a fair deal.

I should like to mention, as was mentioned this morning, something about a thrift committee. I am a member of the local National Thrift Committee and we have on that now three Native members. Sometime ago the Committee was started, and we did everything we possibly could to induce the Native to save, but it was of no avail. A new committee was formed, a sort of joint council, and we invited Native members to come on to the committee as well; and today, through the energies of the Secretary, and through the work of the field officers, - the workers, the demonstrators and field officers, we have fifty clubs today in the Territories and some of the Natives in town have over £100 saved in those Native clubs.

We are going slowly but we anticipate that we are going to do some real good in the Territories with the thrift movement. I think that is all.

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MR. BENJAMIN ROBERT SIMMONS, called and examined:

CHAIRMAN: Could you just describe to us the position of your Department with regard to Government forests inside the Native areas? - The extent?

What is the position with regard to these forests - administration and so forth? - The total extent of our forest reserves in the first place is about 132,000 morgen;

Mr. Simmons

that includes grass lands, forest and plantations.

CHAIRMAN: Now, grass land; what do you comprise under that? - Grass lands, Mr. Chairman, have not yet been afforested, because it includes a good deal of stoney ground.

Ground that has been demarcated for various purposes? - Yes.

MR. MOSTERT: For future forests? - Yes.

Is that round about existing forests? - Yes.

In all cases? - Yes.

What is the position in regard to Natives grazing their cattle on such grass lands? - The Natives have been given a right or a privilege to graze their cattle free of charge on all grass lands, excepting such as may have been fenced in.

To what extent have the forest areas been fenced? - Not very much, sir; it is difficult to say; we have done an amount of fencing, but it is comparatively small.

Have any definite forests been completely fenced? - Some of them have been completely fenced, yes.

Which are your biggest fenced areas? - I would say the Tonti in Mount Ayliff district and perhaps another one, the name of which I have forgotten for the moment; I should think the Insurbani in the Lusikisiki district is another one.

DR. ROBERTS: That big forest round the Falls - the Magwa Falls? - Yes.

Now, all these little bits of forest struck round about these hills between Lusikisiki and Magwa, are they demarcated? - Yes; not all; some are what we call headmen's forests. The large ones are all demarcated and beaconed.

What is the position with regard to the economic portion of these forests? - They have all been exploited.

Mr. Simmons

Under what conditions with regard to labour? -

Well, the woodcutters have been granted licenses - Europeans and Natives; chiefly Europeans.

Is there any preference given to Europeans? -

Yes, there is; we have a list of Europeans which is gradually diminishing every year, but still preference is given to them in cases where timber is very scarce, but the Europeans in the whole of the Transkeian Territories now number forty.

Woodcutters? - Yes, and they are gradually going.

MR. LUCAS: And the number of Natives? - About 75 who work fairly regularly; they do not do very much in the forests; they buy perhaps £5 or £10 worth of timber a year each.

CHAIRMAN: So the whole exploitation of the forests is being carried on by about 125 men? - We have a few coloureds, especially in East Griqualand; we have about sixty Griquas.

The total work is done by under 200 men? - In the forests, yes; yes, about 170; under 200.

With regard to the extension of forests, are you doing anything with that? - Yes, we are doing a good deal; we were doing a good deal but, of course, we have been cut down now pretty considerably owing to retrenchment. May I first of all give you the number of forest guards; we have there the highest paid men; we have 36 forest guards.

Europeans? - No; I am talking about Natives; all Natives.

What wages do they get? - From £42/-/- to £60/-/- a year, - 36 of them.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Do they feed themselves? - Yes, but they get £1 a month forage allowance in addition to their salaries. £42 to £60 salary and £12 a year forage

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allowance; and then we have about 22 forest watchers, also Natives; we call them watchers. They are under the forest guards; they get about 2/6d a day.

DR. ROBERTS: Are they outside the forests or inside?— These men all live within the forest reserves, sir. They have their huts out of the forest reserves; they are our servants; they patrol.

But you also use indirectly Natives in Native Territory, do you not, for watching — well, not openly but secretly?— No, sir, we do not; we only use these men I am speaking about. You mean detectives and that sort of thing?

Not exactly detectives, but huts in the locations?— No, we have not anything of that sort. And then we employ, at our various plantations, on an average about 500 Native labourers in the Transkei; sometimes more, sometimes, less.

MR. MOSTERT: That is for tree planting?— Yes, and general operations in the plantations.

CHAIRMAN: Do you use Europeans for that too?— No, none. I have said the watchers get 2/6d a day. The ordinary labourer averages about 1/9d. And then we have a few women; women do certain work such as collecting wattle seed, and they get 1/- a day. Quite a lot of women are employed at various times on odd jobs, and then we use Natives very often for ploughing and harrowing at certain fixed rates, or we call for tenders.

MR. MOSTERT: Do you pay them so much an acre or morgen?— So much an acre. The rates for ploughing range from 20/- to 25/- an acre; harrowing 7/6d to 10/- an acre — or, we will say 5/- to 10/-. We make them do it very thoroughly.

Mr. Simmons

How deep do they plough? - They plough as deep as possible; about seven to nine inches.

Single furrow? - Yes; they use a hillside generally on fairly steep slopes.

Major ANDERSON: Do you provide the plough? - Yes, we provide all tools; we provide everything. I might say, sir, that of the 132,000 morgen - these are very rough figures - about 68 are really high forest, 5,000 scrub forest, 6,000 plantations. That is morgen, of course; it is all morgen. 6,000 morgen plantations, about 62 morgen drift sands, 52,000 morgen pasture and arable lands.

MR. MOSTERT: That is future forests? - Yes. I suppose of that 52,000 morgen though, only about a third is fit for afforestation and the remainder is krantz and rock ground.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Why is it taken in in that case? - The old demarcations, sir.

We had a complaint from one Native witness that the forestry people took in too much land and they could ill afford to spare it? - The old demarcations did take it in, but, as I have said, the Natives are allowed to graze their cattle on it. so they have really no complaint in that respect; they use it freely and undisturbed.

CHAIRMAN: You have nothing to do with the small woods round about the kraals? - No, nothing.

MR. LUGAS: Does the revenue you get from the forests equal the expenditure? - From the indigenous forests?

Yes? - Yes.

Does it exceed it? - Yes, it does.

What are the figures; have you got them there? - No, sir, I have not; but I can say this, our

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revenue from forests and plantations is over £20,000.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: And your expenditure? - It depends very much on what new afforestation work we do.

On the whole? - I am afraid I cannot tell you what our expenditure is; it is very considerably less in the Transkei.

And your income? - The revenue exceeds the expenditure considerably, I know that. I am sorry; I can get you the figures if you would like to have them.

MR. MOSEERT: We would be glad? - I will send them in to the Secretary first thing tomorrow.

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DR. ROBERTS: Do you not allow the Natives to use deadwood? - They have the right to come into the forest for deadwood, provided they do not carry an axe. They get it free of charge, but now they very much prefer, where the plantations are handy, to get penny headloads; they come and get as much as they can carry and perhaps, for superior stuff, it is a tickey, but the majority of it is a penny. I reduced it to a penny rather than let them go into the forest where they do a lot of damage, because, although they are not allowed to carry an axe, they do and they do a considerable amount of damage. They cut down young trees and, when dry, they come and fetch them. Now they prefer to go to plantations where they can get the material much more easily and pay 1d for it. So the plantations are saving the forests. That is just what we want.

MR. LUCAS: Are you supplying the indigenous timber to other forests in the country? - No, we supply poles from the plantations to other parts of the country. It is chiefly sold to the Natives. Contractors buy the bark but all the wood is sold to the Natives at really very

low rates.

MR. MOSTERT: You yourselves do not bark?—  
No; we do as little departmental work as we possibly can.

I noticed, not far from here, a plantation that is cut down; is that sold to a contractor?— Where is that; up in the mountain?

Yes?— Oh, the bark is all sold to a contractor, it all goes. It is wonderful the amount of stuff we do sell.

We came through a forest down here where the undergrowth is enormous; is that on account of lack of labour?— During the past year we have been cut down to practically nothing and have not been able to do the thinning we would like to have done.

MR. MOSTERT: It is the same with the Magwa Forest over there?— Yes.

Is that owing to shortage of labour?— No, owing to shortage of funds; it is a pity, as I have pointed out. They suddenly cut us down to nothing. We have had to dismiss most of our labourers for the time being.

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Mr. TENNYSON MAKIWANE, further examined:

MR. LUCAS: In your statement you made the other day, you spoke about setting up certain industries in the Territories?— Yes, sir.

Do you appreciate that, if they were established, unless the wages were regulated so as to prevent undercutting, in the European areas, there would be great hostility to such?— Yes; I would certainly favour the regulation of the wages.

You would have no objection?— No, I would have no objection to that.

Mr. Makwane

Is there anything more you wish to say on the question of setting up trades? - No, sir. I think I gave all the instances that I thought could be tried in the Transkei and, in regard to encouraging, for instance, Natives to keep shops in their own reserves, especially in the surveyed locations, I would certainly favour a surveyed location where closer settlement could take place and the Natives be allowed to open small shops of their own there, irrespective of the distance of five miles between the shops, because I contend that, unless they are encouraged to begin on a small scale, they cannot be expected to take over the existing shops and I think it is not necessary even that Europeans should discontinue the present shops but that, alongside, Natives should be encouraged to start on a small scale in the surveyed locations, irrespective of the distance of five miles.

I think that would go a long way towards encouraging Native industries and trades.

Do you think they could do that with licenses at the present level? - No, that would not be fair; the license should be created according to the value of the shops.

Do you think there is any substantial demand among the Natives for the right to trade? - I think so, from the more progressive Natives, because the Native who now goes to the towns because he cannot find anything to do in the locations, would then be attracted to come back to the location to start trading in a small way there.

Now, do you know anything about the possibilities of Natives doing building work or printing work in this town itself? - Building work, I think I can say something about, because the traders' stores now in the Territories usually employ a carpenter to make doors and doorframes and windows,

Mr. Makwane

which, I think, are finding a good market amongst the people in the locations. So, as far as that is concerned, quite a number of Natives are now working for traders. And, in relation to builders, I should say if they were prepared to take payment in kind, people would be quite willing to put up good dwellings. I think, in the locations, people are beginning to go in for good buildings.

You think there is a good opening there? - Yes, which just now is at the starting stage, but it will certainly develop to much greater things than we see today.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Do you get square buildings in the location? - Yes, quite substantial buildings; some to the value of £500 I should say.

MR. LUCAS: The point I wanted to get at was whether the Native builder or printer in a town like Umtata has any difficulties placed in his way by the European workmen? - I do not know that difficulties have been placed in their way at all in the Territories; I know of three printing works including Blytheswood and Lovedale, which are purely Native institutions. In addition, you get the local "Territorial News" and another printing shop where a few Natives are employed as printers; but I should not say there was a big opening so far as the printing trade was concerned.

DR. ROBERTS Do they make very good printers? - I should think their employers are quite satisfied. I approached some of them and found they were quite satisfied; they paid wages up to £7 a month, and I think that indicates satisfaction.

MR. LUCAS: You, I think, said that you were at one time secretary to Chief Porter? - Yes, I was private secretary to him for four years.

Mr. Makwane

Did you notice in the district over which he is chief the effects of his progressive ideas? - Very much so. I think his example has been altogether for good so far as the example of progress to his people is concerned. In the matter of wattle plantations, they seem to be rising up all over the country on people's private allotments; and, in the matter of improved methods of agriculture and in the fencing of lands by the people, - they saw the chief doing these things at one time or another and they followed suit.

DR. ROBERTS: Would you mind telling the Commission where Chief Botho was educated? - I do not think he went to Lovedale. There was no special course for him as a chief.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: When you appeared before us last, you said you thought the Land Bank could assist your credit societies or whatever you call them? - Yes, I indicated what I considered was the need of the credit co-operative societies, but, as I said, that will come up for discussion at the conference on the 26th of this month. They can then decide whether to make a special request about that.

If you were to bring the Land bank into your credit societies, would it not kill the thrift that is going on amongst the Natives now? - I think it will be allright. The idea is that the people should help one another much more than it should be a profit-making business. I do not think the Land Bank has had any tendency to discourage thrift and I do not think it will have any tendency to discourage thrift amongst the Natives.

DR. ROBERTS: Could you guide us as to the thought that is current just now of giving more power to the

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chiefs, - not social position, because they have that - but giving them more jurisdiction, criminal and civil. You have been with chiefs, what is your own view? Were you not also in Swaziland?- No, it was my brother who was there. I have not given the question much thought of late; I am afraid I am not competent to pass an opinion.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: You have seen the work of the chief?- Yes.

Do you think he is hindered by not having enough power?- What we have asked for is that his court should not be merely a court of arbitration, but that it should be given power to enforce his decisions when the parties do not appeal to the magistrate's court. I think the Government has since given him that power. That is as far as we have developed that view.

MR. MOSTERT: Has there been any appeal from these judgments?- Yes, the people appeal quite freely to the magistrate's court.

MR. LUCAS: I understood last Sunday from the Secretary to Chief Porter that there only had been one appeal now for quite a long time?- When I was there they appealed quite freely when they were not satisfied with a judgment. The Chief has since been given power to enforce his decision, which, I think, is a good thing.

The Commission adjourned at 5 p.m. to take evidence at Engcobo, Thursday, 20th November 1930.

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